September 2004

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Volume 17 Number 9

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Coming soon ...

The PC Doctor is in! Computer and related technology problems got you down? Submit tech questions and concerns to the HUB PC Doctor. He'll answer the most pressing problems and the best questions every month: pcdoctor@ppublishing.ca

More news, features and reviews in Montreal, Toronto and BC editions following page 8

www.hubcanada.com

Editorial

Andrew Moore-Crispin

You may have noticed a few changes to HUB Digital Living in the past few months. First perhaps, you might have noticed a new mug staring at you from the top of the editorial and letters page in July and a new name at the bottom of said page.

For the past two issues, Megan Johnston and I have collaborated as joint Editors and now, Megan is moving on to pursue other opportunities. Though I'm happy to say, she will continue to contribute to the magazine as a writer.

Another of the changes you may have noticed is that we've spread editorial content across the entire magazine as opposed to having our stories and reviews sequestered in the front and back of the book. The powers that be refused my request to put an ironic "NEW AND IMPROVED!!! Editorial content throughout!" starburst on the cover however.

Other changes are "behind the scenes" and likely not as interesting. We moved offices recently and hence frequent a different pub after work, for example.

We're always interested to hear what readers have to say about the magazine, its writers, its direction and how we can improve. Whether bricks or bouquets, send your opinions and letters to letters@ppublishing.ca.

Enjoy the issue,
Andrew Moore-Crispin
Editor-in-Chief

Last month, we asked you how concerned you are about online security the responses were overwhelming.

Carlos A. Coimbra writes: New PC users in particular are babes in the woods, as can be exemplified by my own experience of running Win95 for years with no constant anti virus nor firewall, and never having been hit by anything. After I installed Win XP on a new computer, I was infected by a worm within fifteen minutes of connecting to the Internet.

James Nicholas writes: We have to ask ourselves: Is access to so much information a good thing? We all value our privacy, it's a basic human right. So I am as much concerned as excited by every new type of emergent technology that enables me to, for instance, bank wirelessly while reclining in the back yard. The simple fact is that by doing this I am compromising my privacy through fledgling security protocols.

Daniel Renaud writes: I'm very concerned about it and I think anyone who goes online should be as well. I work in the IT industry and am often called upon by family and friends for help with computer related topics. One complaint I often hear is what a nuisance it has become to have to install patches, update anti virus and spy ware programs as well as dealing with the firewall almost on a daily basis. They say that they spend a good portion of their online time doing those things when they should be having fun.

Letter of the Month

The winner of this month's letter contest is **James McMartin**

If one is seriously concerned about privacy and/or security, Mac OS X is a pretty good option. Viruses exist only as a concept for OS X users, XP users unfortunately cannot claim the same. Surf-wise, intrusive advertising and misleading linkage are a concern ... for Windows users. As an OS X user this has never been a problem. Any hacker exploits have been patched by Apple with pleasing speed.

Server side issue like cookies and email harvesting exist in the same realm as spam—they suck, but seem to be as resilient as cockroaches. Further, they are platform independent. Thus, each OS has its benefits and flows, but Windows rocky relationship with viruses and privacy issues simply cannot compare with the Mac's relatively hack-free status. As an OS X user, I try not to be complacent in regards to these issues, but this certainly has been a non-issue thus far.

For his letter, James wins the **Ultimate Dell Print Primer Give Away** from Dell Canada.

This month, in addition to feedback on the issue, tell us **What is the best tech gadget or tool for back to school?** Drop us a line at **letters@ppublishing.ca.**

The Letter of the Month will receive a 1GB Super High Performance Secure Digital memory card for portable devices from ATP (flash.atpinc.com).

The ATP Super High Performance SD card features a high transfer rate and low power consumption for maximum battery life. A write protect switch on the left of the postage stamp size ATP SD card prevents data from being accidentally overwritten or erased. Compatible with any device that has an SD slot including cell phones, PDAs and MP3 players.

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In our search for the perfect combination of size and performance, we came up with the X-Note series – notebooks that make no compromises. Starting with an Intel Centrino processor, we added one of the brightest LCD screens on the market, a 10-hour extended life battery* and a Quad Band wireless antenna, all packed into an ultra slim titanium and carbon fibre package that weighs a mere 2.4 kgs.

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The follow up to the hip hop artist and extreme sportster favourite SideKick cell phone ("celly" to hip-hoppers) debuted States-side in early August with a full product launch later this year in the fall Canadian launch plans have yet to be finalized at press time

The redesigned SideKickII will feature 32MB RAM, a 240x160 colour display and a VGA camera with integrated flash and an estimated 8 hours of talk time and 70 hours of standby As with the original SideKick, the second iteration will feature integrated Web browsing and email functionality over GPRS and PDA functionality

SideKickII maintains the original's celebrity focus, users can get HiFi ringtones of actual recorded songs voice ringers where celebrities will announce incoming calls Pricing has yet to be finalized

SideKickII

Hitching its wagon to the immanent success of Doom 3, Ideazon has created a Zboard keyset tailored to the dark and scary shooter Controls are mapped to the unique layout of the keyset giving gamers one-handed access to the in game controls including labeled weapons buttons, reload and "soul cube" button

Adjusting to using the cursor pad and game controls—mostly mapped on the far left of the keyset—may prove difficult to those experienced in the dark world of Doom but can offer a gameplay advantage to neophytes Similarly, pushing the control pad and in game buttons to the far left of the keyboard means the QWERTY keyboard is squished into something of a bizarre configutation that will take some getting used to and will all but require users to swap out the Doom 3 key set for the standard configuration QWERTY that ships with the USB base unit

More info at www ideazon com

Zboard Doom 3 keyset

MSN Direct in Canada has selected the Tissot High T as the flagship watch for its MSN Direct service (see Wrist watch weather watcher in select regions)

The High T looks to be aiming at becoming the Rolex of Smart Watches, its $1,195 retail price sticker (though I suppose they don't really use stickers in high-end watch and jewellery shops) and "White Glove Service" where the retailer will activate the watch and register users through a service only available to High T owners aim the watch squarely at high end consumers. Users wanting to make the ultimate statement in affluence and geekdom get 6 months of MSN Direct service and touch screen capabilities unique to the High-T.

Tissot High-T

Last year, Pyramat's PM300 "sound lounger" created a bit of a stir Users unfurl the 3-panel lounger, plug in to an audio source—specifically a video game console though the unit works with anything capable of outputting audio via RCA cables or mini-jack—lean back on the back support / subwoofer enclosure to really experience the game A neat idea and fairly well thought out but lacking in the design with a shoddy remote control and nylon cushion covers that tended to pull and sometimes even tear at the seems

To that end, Pyramat is releasing a drastic redesign of the Pyramat concept, the PM550

The PM550 features a futuristic design and what looks like a more sturdy and well thought out lounger portion, judging by the concept / design images

Set for release in mid to late September, the PM550 will be distributed in Canada through partners where the PM300 was only available to Canadians through the Pyramat Web site Pricing yet to be revealed

www pyramat com

Pyramat PM550

Notice of Certification and Settlement Agreement Approval

IN THE MATTER OF FUJITSU HARD DRIVE CLASS ACTION LITIGATION

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. IT MAY AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

TO All persons or entities located in Canada who purchased and used in Canada Fujitsu MPF3xxx AH hard disk drives or MPG3xxx hard disk drives (hereinafter "Drive" or "Drives") or computer or other systems containing these noted drives, including all drive models bearing a model number composed of or starting with the sequence MPF3102AH MPF3153AH, MPF3204AH, MPG3102, MPG3153, MPG3204 MPG3307 AND MPG3409 (any one of which may also be followed by alphabetical characters).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE?

An Agreement has been reached and approved by the Courts in class proceeding lawsuits initiated in Ontario and Quebec against Fujitsu Canada, Inc and Fujitsu Limited in which it is alleged that the Defendants designed, manufactured and sold certain computer hard drives that were defective

This Notice is to advise you of the Agreement and to inform you of your rights as a Class Member under the Agreement. You will be bound by the terms of the Agreement unless you decide to exclude yourself by opting out of the Agreement, as explained in this Notice

The proceeding was certified and the Settlement Agreement approved by the Courts in Ontario and Quebec, on July 7 2004 and June 24, 2004 respectively The Ontario Court certified and approved the settlement on behalf of all those in Canada who purchased and used Drives or computer or other systems containing Drives in Canada for their own use and not for distribution or resale.

WHO IS IN THE SETTLEMENT CLASS?

You are a Class Member if you purchased and used in Canada either a Fujitsu Drive or Drives or a computer or other system containing a Drive or Drives.

DO I HAVE ONE OF THESE FUJITSU DRIVES?

There are a number of ways that you may be able to determine if you have or had one of the Drives in issue and may be entitled to compensation (see below) If you have any questions regarding any of these methods, please call the Settlement Administrator at 1-866-800-0075 or send an email to fujitsu@crawco ca

Downloadable Utility

You can download a free utility that may assist you in determining if the hard disk drive in your computer is one of the models at issue at the following website **www hddsettlement ca** The utility requires that your computer or other system use a Microsoft Windows operating system You should follow the instructions described in the "read me" file of the utility

Physical Inspection

You may be able to physically check to see if you have an affected Drive However before doing so you should back up and save any important data on the hard disk, exit from any programs you are operating on your computer shut down your computer and unplug the power source. **Please ensure that you understand how to conduct this check without causing any harm to yourself, the hard disk drive or any computer or other device containing the hard disk drive**

Review Documents

The documents that accompanied your computer or other system or hard disk drive may disclose if you have a Drive

Contact Seller or Computer Professional

The seller from whom you purchased the hard disk drive (as a separate item or as a component in a computer or other system) or another computer professional may be able to assist you in determining whether you have one of the Drives in issue

WHAT ARE THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS?

Class Members may be entitled to receive the compensation below subject to verification of their claim(s) However, if Class Members have already received monetary compensation from Fujitsu Canada Inc or anyone else for a failed Drive they may not be entitled to receive compensation under this Agreement, unless they have incurred eligible data recovery costs associated with a Drive failure The Defendants will pay the costs associated with the return of those Drives accepted by the Claims Administrator as eligible for settlement benefits.

For those with a Drive bearing Model No MPF3102AH, MPG3153xx, MPF3153AH and/or MPG3102xx

Up to $27.50 per Drive, upon returning their Drive(s) and submitting acceptable proof of payment of a replacement drive(s)

For those with a Drive bearing Model No MPF3204AH, MPG3204xx, MPG3307xx and/or MPG3409xx

Up to $32.50 per Drive upon returning their Drive(s) and submitting acceptable proof of payment of a replacement drive(s)

For those who incurred data recovery costs associated with a Drive failure:

Up to $500 per Drive, upon returning their Drive(s) (if available) and submitting acceptable proof that data recovery costs have been incurred (e g an invoice from a data recovery service or satisfactory evidence establishing the basis of the amount claimed for internal data recovery costs)

Warranty Protection

Class Members should note that Fujitsu hard drives sold by Fujitsu Canada may still be covered by a warranty under which alternative relief may be available for Drives that have failed The period for filing warranty claims is limited Class Members should see the Fujitsu Canada web site at **www fujitsu.ca/warranty/hdd/** for the specific terms of the warranty

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

If you are a Class Member you have the following options

Submit a Claim Form

To receive Settlement Benefits Class Members must submit a Claim Form together with all supporting documentation to the Claims Administrator by **December 3, 2004** Please note that all claims relating to a Drive must be submitted at the same time

Opt Out

This is the only option that allows you to preserve your claims against the Defendants and others However, if you opt out you will not be entitled to any settlement benefits To opt out, you must obtain an Opt Out form from the Claims Administrator and return it to the Claims Administrator by **October 8, 2004**.

Do Nothing

If you do not fill out a Claims Form or Opt Out you will receive no compensation and your claims against the Defendants and others relating to these matters will be barred

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like a copy of the Settlement Agreement or have any questions you may call the Claims Administrators Information Line at 1 866 800-0075 A copy of the Settlement Agreement can be sent to you at a cost of $20 00 per copy which represents the cost of photocopying and mailing the Agreement. A copy of the Settlement Agreement can also be viewed on Class Counsel's web site at **www classaction.ca**

Class Counsel

The law firm of *Siskind, Cromarty, Ivey & Dowler'* represents the Class Members other than consumers in Quebec, and can be reached toll-free at 1-800-461-6166 The law firm of Siskinds Desmeules represents the Class Members in Quebec, and can be reached at 418 694 2009

Legal Fees

The entitlement of plaintiffs counsel to legal fees and costs of class counsel will not be deducted from the Settlement Benefits

MAILING OF THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
AND THE QUEBEC (COUR SUPÉRIEURE) SUPERIOR COURT

Buying a back to school system

Among the gear for which students across the country will no doubt exchange numerous promises for good grades, attendance and organization ("this year will be different, I swear") are MP3 players, cell phones, PDAs—not quite as sexy but still very useful—small format USB storage drives. Gone are the days of empty promises of scholastic excellence in return for the latest Note Totes binder with the herringbone spine and nifty Velcro closure (in taupe, if you please) or the cool but largely useless pop-out, compartmentalized pencil cases of yesteryear.

Back to school PC

The most important piece of back to school tech is likely the computer. Whether upgrading to keep current, purchasing a new system for home or for someone in the family going away to school, a capable computer system doesn't necessarily need to break the bank.

"If you're buying a desktop you can save money by buying an integrated motherboard, they're a lot better than they used to be. The video subsystems are better, sound is better and they typically have Ethernet built right in," says Jim Sanderson, author and manager of Dominion Business Machines (www.dominionbusiness.ca). That said, integrated motherboards generally borrow video memory from system RAM for video, which is a strike against, he says.

Laptops on the other hand can be more than double the price of a comparably equipped desktop system and upgrading to keep somewhat current comes at a potentially huge cost. In short, "only buy a laptop if you need to carry it around," Sanderson warns.

He recommends a desktop PC in or around the following specs as a good balance of cost and system specs for home and homework use.

- 2.8 GHz Pentium 4 or equivalent processor
- 80 GB hard disk drive
- Ethernet or modem (depending on availability of high speed Internet access)
- 512 MB RAM

The reasoning is that the 2.8 GHz generation P4 and equivalent CPUs aren't too far from the high end of the scale (currently 3.2 GHz chips at retail), they're a few generations (read: months) behind and hence can be had at a more reasonable price per performance.

512 MB of RAM is the defacto minimum memory spec for a current desktop and an 80 GB hard drive can be had for about $15 or $20 more than a comparable 40 GB drive.

With more and more colleges and universities incorporating high speed wireless networks and with laptops becoming increasingly an accepted (not to mention valuable) tool in lecture halls and classrooms, portability may well be worth the premium.

Online specialty retailers often prove to be the best way to buy a laptop, offering user-configurable systems that scale somewhat to budget.

When purchasing a laptop to head back to school, users need to consider what its primary use will be. If your school is wireless enabled, check the standard and make sure your computer will be compatible. 802.11b is the most common standard while 802.11g is gaining ground in some areas; 802.11a is less common and likely won't be encountered in a school. If a portable computer is required equipment, you'll likely be toting a computer bag around a fair bit. In this case, a more compact "ultra portable" may be in order. These systems keep weight down by offering a smaller form factor but sacrifice performance and screen size. If students are on the move a lot with computer in tow, the sacrifices may prove worthwhile, however.

For applications where the laptop is to be kept and used in an apartment or dormitory but users want to keep the option of mobility open, a standard configuration laptop will do the trick. Less mobile students who just want the ability to work anywhere in their room might consider a much heftier yet much more powerful "desktop replacement" laptop. Note that prices and system specs vary widely by manufacturer. The following is intended as a guide only.

Ultra-portable

Look for a weight under 5 lbs and preferably even under 4 lbs. Standard configurations are approximately:

- 1.2 - 1.4 GHz Intel Centrino processor (WiFi enabled)
- 20 - 30GB hard disk drive
- 12.1 - 13.3" display
- 256 MB RAM

Standard laptops

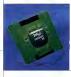
A balance of portability and power, a "standard" laptop will generally weigh in between 5 lbs and 7 lbs. Standard configurations are approximately:

- 1.5 - 1.8 GHz Mobile Pentium 4 or equivalent
- 40 - 60 GB hard disk drive
- 15.1" display
- 512 MB RAM
- 802.11 b/g wireless

Desktop replacements

Be prepared to sacrifice battery life and portability in return for power and storage. Some desktop replacements can travel (with accessories) at nearly 12 lbs while others clock in at a more respectable but still heavy 8 or 9 lbs. Desktop replacements offer beefier graphics capabilities for gaming etc. Standard configurations are approximately:

- 2.8 GHz Pentium 4 or Mobile Pentium 4
- 80 GB hard disk drive
- 15.1 - 17.1" display
- 512 MB – 1 GB RAM
- 802.11 b/g wireless



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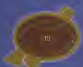

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PC gaming

Kuma\War

Publisher/Developer: Kuma Reality Games

Uprising in Fallujah claims five lives. Saddam loyalists defiant in Tikrit. Iraqi cleric vows to fight U.S. to the death.

Today's grim headlines are now part of a new computer game series, Kuma\War.

Unlike most computer games that take years to create, Kuma\War is a subscription based game series with real world missions based on breaking news. Consider them interactive reenactments of modern conflicts, available just weeks after they happen. Three new missions can be downloaded each month.

These scenarios focus primarily on events in Iraq, such as the capture of Saddam Hussein. In fact, that was a downloadable mission released just days after it happened in real life.

Played from either a third-person or first person perspective, gamers are in control of a four-man squad and armed with real weapons used by today's U.S. army. But while Kuma\War bills itself as a strategic action game, it really is a simplistic point and-shoot title that may disappoint those expecting a deep tactical experience. Only a small handful of commands for your troops are available, and they don't respond that well to them either.

In fact, the enemy A.I. is even worse. Baddies always appear in the same place, which hurts the game's replayability. Plus, imagine shooting down an enemy while his surrounding buddies don't even notice. This is simply not acceptable in a military computer game.

Along with the single player and multiplayer maps—playable over the Internet with or against up to 32 others—subscribers receive a custom video news broadcast for each mission and some war intelligence gathered from a decorated team of military veterans. It's a nice addition to the gameplay but isn't required in order to understand and partake in its accompanying mission.

Some may feel these games are exploitation, but the makers behind Kuma\War insist they don't market this as entertainment—rather they're trying to provide a timely, accurate and immersive account of what's really happening in various "hot spots" around the world. You can be the judge. All existing 18 missions of Kuma\War are free for consumers to try (kumawar.com), then costs US$9.95 per month for future missions.

★ ★ ★

Good - Interesting premise
- Good value for amount of gameplay

Bad - Simple gameplay
- Dumb A.I.
- may be perceived as exploitation.

Final thoughts: Gamers and/or war aficionados interested in the current Iraq crisis may find Kuma\War of interest.

Singles: Flirt Up Your Life

Publisher: Eidos   Developer: Rotobee

Be honest—you've always wanted to see what your Sims would look like naked. And though you won't openly admit it, it's also crossed your mind about your Sims getting er intimate.

Well, imagine you're clicking around in a game of The Sims, but after your virtual housemates do the dishes, they march to the bedroom, disrobe and jump under the sheets to do the deed. This is what players can expect from the racy Singles: Flirt Up Your Life, a download only European import that's rated "Adults Only" (18 +).

While not as deep or well rounded as The Sims—the game from which Singles draws heavily in both its visual style and gameplay—this mature title is fun for those looking for an eyebrow raising video game.

At the start of Singles, players select from among ten men and women, each with their own unique look and personality, who must move in together and despite their differences, work their way up from strangers to acquaintances to friends to lovers. While there is some variety between these "singles"—including a gay male and a lesbian—all are Caucasian, disappointing given the diversity of gamers today.

Along with decorating the house, managing the singles' needs (hygiene, hunger, etc.) and advancing them in their careers, much of the gameplay revolves around developing the relationship by selecting dialogue and actions and eventually, getting naked and getting busy. A curious goal for a computer game indeed, but it's fun to watch your singles flirt, joke and bond over time before reaching the ahem, climax of the game. There is nudity, but there isn't too much graphic detail once the lovemaking begins. That said, the highly detailed 3D graphics and intuitive free roaming camera are two of the game's greatest achievements.

Gameplay grows repetitive after a while, and Singles also suffers from technical problems including long load times and poor performance on some ATI video cards.

But players intrigued by this adult premise can download Singles: Flirt Up Your Life at www.singlesthegame.com. The first hour is free, and then players are asked to provide a credit card to unlock the rest of the game. Now if you'll excuse me, my sweaty Singles are looking for a virtual cigarette.

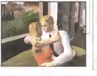
By Marc Saltzman

★ ★ ★

Good - Good idea for a game
- Attractive graphics

Bad - Gameplay gets stale after a while
- Some technical issues

Final thought: Mature gamers with a wild streak should at least download the free demo.



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Would you pay for better radio?

Three different companies think the Canadian listener will, and they're bidding for licenses from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to bring a new kind of radio to this country.

Canadian Satellite Radio

Canadian Satellite Radio Inc. (CSR) is a partnership between XM Radio and Toronto entrepreneurs John Bitove, Jr., former owner of the Toronto Raptors, and Stewart Lyons.

XM provides multiple, commercial-free digital channels of the major genres (fifteen for rock, seven for country, seven for hip hop and urban), as well as multiple channels for niche formats like Christian, classical, Latin and more. There's also a full slate of news, sports, talk and entertainment programming. Basic service costs US$9.99 per month, plus the cost of a receiver.

Sirius/CBC/Standard

The competition is a partnership between SIRIUS Satellite Radio, Canadian media company Standard Radio and CBC/Radio-Canada. Standard Radio consists of 51 radio stations and reaches 6.5 million Canadians every week.

Sirius, the number two satellite service, provides a menu comparable to XM for US$12.95 per month. The CBC plans to add four music and news channels, two in English, two in French, to the existing Sirius lineup.

CHUM

The third company to submit a proposal is Canadian media company CHUM Ltd. Unlike the other two satellite services, CHUM plans to partner with a wireless provider such as Rogers Wireless or Bell Mobility, to provide nation-wide subscriber digital radio, using DAB (Digital Audio Broadcast) technology and terrestrial transmitters. The initial roll out would be in Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, later expanding to more of the country.

Duff Roman, vice-president of industry affairs for CHUM Ltd. says, "Our plan is to provide a subscription service at $10 [per month] for no less than fifty and up to a hundred channels, just like XM and Sirius, and a price point for the

Technically, grey market satellite radio is already available in Canada. The satellites' footprints extend as far north as Edmonton, and Sirius signals can be received north of Yellowknife. It's commonly believed that terrestrial repeaters are necessary to receive the satellite signals in built-up areas, which have not yet been set up in Canada. "There will be a few repeaters needed in certain areas, but I get signal as clear as can be in Toronto," says Gary Slaight, president and CEO of Standard Radio. A number of Canadians with US billing addresses subscribe to the services, using receivers purchased south of the border. Nobody knows how many there are, but anecdotal evidence suggests a significant following, including posts on [illegible] and [illegible]stage.com. One Edmonton electronics retailer estimates there are about 7,500 subscribers across Canada, mostly truckers, mobile home owners and other long distance drivers, as well as rural listeners with few choices.

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Pay for it?

After being free for most of a century, will people want to pay for radio? Kevin Ribble a broadcasting instructor at BCIT, says that diversity of content is the main advantage over conventional radio "Radio itself, I think, has gone a little stale in North America How many different formats are there, and how safe is the music? It s very safe Whereas, when you've got 80 different formats on Sirius or whatever to play with that s a lot of formats. You can take risks with a lot of different kinds of music"

Cancon issues

While satellite services are currently exempt from Canadian content regulations, both applicants assert that their services will give Canadian artists greater exposure, both at home and in the U S

Stewart Lyons, executive vice president of Canadian Satellite Radio provides an example "Ron Sexsmith, who was the 2002 independent artist of the year Last year he received 12 spins across Canada in the entire year On XM, he received over 300"

CHUM's proposal emphasizes that its service will be Canadian owned and operated, and fully compliant with CRTC content regulations

Differing technologies

CHUM's proposals says that their DAB receivers can also receive digital simulcast of AM and FM stations, in the Lband spectrum that is the accepted standard for digital radio in most of the world

In the US however, XM and Sirius broadcast in the S-band, and the DAB standard is not supported In Canada, the two incompatible technologies directly compete for the first time

Conclusion

The CRTC plans to hold public hearings that begin on November 1st, 2004, with a result in the spring of 2005

By Peter Tupper

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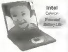

- **Intel** Celeron-M 1.3Ghz 512kb cache
- **256mb** DDR memory
- **Intel** intergrated VGA graphics
- **30gb** hard drive
- **CDWriter** with DVD reader
- **14 inch** XGA display 1024x768
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN
- **Microsoft** Windows XP Home edition

Acer AS1355LCIXPH
$1358

- **AMD** Athlon XP-M 2600+ mobile processor
- **512mb** DDR memory (2 x 256mb)
- **Unichrome** intergrated VGA graphics
- **30gb** hard drive
- **CDWriter** with DVD reader
- **15 inch** XGA display 1024x768
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN **Wireless** LAN
- **Microsoft** Windows XP Home edition

Acer 2601WLC-XPP
$1662

- **Intel** Pentium 4 2.8Ghz processor
- **512mb** DDR memory (2 x 256mb)
- **ATI** Mobility Radeon 9000 graphics
- **40gb** hard drive
- **CDWriter** with DVD reader
- **15 inch** wide XGA display 1280x800
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN **Wireless** LAN
- **Microsoft** Windows XP Professional

Acer 4001LCI-XPH
$1560

- **Intel** Centrino 1.5Ghz processor
- **256mb** DDR memory (2 x 512mb)
- **Intel** Extreme Graphics 2
- **40gb** hard drive
- **CDWriter** with DVD reader
- **15 inch** XGA display 1024x768
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN **Wireless** LAN(g)
- **Microsoft** Windows XP Home

Acer AS1662WLMI-H
$1977

- **Intel** Pentium 4 3.0Ghz processor
- **512mb** DDR memory
- **ATI** Mobility Radeon 9700 graphics (64mb)
- **80gb** hard drive **Windows XP** Home
- **DVDWriter** with player software
- **15.4 inch** Wide XGA display 1280x800
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN Wireless LAN (g)

Acer AS2025WLMI
$3023

- **Intel** Centrino 1.8Ghz processor
- **512mb** DDR memory (2 x 256mb)
- **ATI** Mobility Radeon 9700 graphics
- **80gb** hard drive **Windows XP** Professional
- **DVDWriter** plus 4 in 1 memory reader
- **15.4 inch** Wide XGA display 1280x800
- 56k modem 10/100 LAN Wireless LAN Bluetooth

DIGITAL CAMERAS

***Sony** 5MP camera with with professional controls*

$889

•1.8" colour display •2x Digital Zoom
•lithium ion battery •Compact flash

CANON *PowerShot Series*	
A310 (3 Megapixels)	249^{95}
A60 (2 Megapixels)	289^{95}
A75 (3 Megapixels)	379^{95}
A80 (4 Megapixels)	479^{95}
S410 (4 Megapixels)	519^{95}
S500 (4/5 Megapixels)	619^{95}
G5 (5 Megapixels)	829^{95}
SD10S (4 Megapixels)	379^{95}
S1is (3 Megapixels)	649^{95}
SONY *CyberShot Series*	
DSCU30 (2 Megapixels)	315^{95}
DSCU50 (2 Megapixels)	364^{95}
DSCV1 (5 Megapixels)	714^{95}
DSCW1 (5 Megapixels)	537^{95}
DSCP52 (3 Megapixels)	304^{95}
DSCP32 (3 Megapixels)	265^{95}
DSCF717 (5 Megapixels)	869^{95}
DSCF828 (8 Megapixels)	1246^{95}
SONY *Handycam Video Cameras*	
DCR TRV260	477^{95}
DCR-TRV460	537^{95}
DCR-TRV38	973^{95}

MP3 PLAYERS

Lexar JumpGear with 128mb/256mb (Earbuds Two AA batteries = 44 hours of play)	99^{95}/114^{95}
Rio Chiba 256mb (Earbuds One AAA battery = 18 hours of play)	201^{95}
Rio Nitrus 1.5GB (Earbuds LION battery USB2)	241^{95}
Apple iPod Mini 4GB (Colours available Silver Green Pink Blue or Gold)	348^{95}
Apple iPod 20GB (Earbuds LION battery USB2 Remote M9244C)	419^{95}
Apple iPod 40GB (Earbuds LION battery USB2 Remote M9245LL)	549^{95}
Creative Labs Muvo NX 128mb (Headphones AAA battery USB2 Microphone)	146^{99}
Creative Labs Muvo NX 256mb (Headphones AAA battery USB2, Microphone)	182^{95}
Creative Labs Nomad Zen 40GB (Headphones LION battery USB2)	337^{95}
Creative Labs Nomad Zen 60GB (Headphones LION battery USB2	456^{95}

PDA'S

GPS Navigation
PDA Upgrade Kits

HP Ipaq kit (for current models)	304^{95}
HP Ipaq kit (for older models)	364^{95}
HP Ipaq kit (for bluetooth models)	379^{95}
Dell kit (axim X3)	304^{95}
Toshiba kit (e400/e800)	304^{95}
Toshiba kit (300/700 series)	316^{95}
Viewsonic kit (v35/v36/v37)	316^{95}
Bluetooth kit (for most BT Pocket PC's)	476^{95}

GPS Navigation Kit
Hewlett Packard IPAQ 2210 with in-car GPS receiver charger and Canadian mapping software $759.95

Asus A716
540^{95}

- •400Mhz
- •64mb memory
- •Pocket PC OS
- •Both CF and SD slots
- •Bluetooth & WiFi 802.11b

ASUS	
A620-BT (400Mhz 64mb Bluetooth)	444^{95}
PALM COMPUTING	
ZIRE 31 (200Mhz, 16mb Colour)	192^{95}
ZIRE 72 (312Mhz, 24mb Colour)	389^{95}
TUNGSTEN E (126Mhz 32mb Colour)	260^{95}
TUNGSTEN T3 (400Mhz 64mb Blue)	473^{95}
TUNGSTEN C (400Mhz 64mb WiFi)	462^{95}
HEWLETT PACKARD/COMPAQ	
Ipaq 1710 (200Mhz, 25mb, Bluetooth)	332^{95}
Ipaq 1940 (266Mhz 64mb Bluetooth)	348^{95}
Ipaq 2210 (400Mhz 64mb Blue/WiFi)	461^{95}
Ipaq 4150 (400Mhz 64mb Blue/WiFi)	559^{95}
Ipaq 4350 (400Mhz 64mb Blue/WiFi)	644^{95}
Ipaq 5550 (400Mhz, 128mb, Blue/WiFi)	776^{95}
TOSHIBA	
E800 (400Mhz 128mb WiFi)	713^{95}

DIGITAL MEMORY MODULES

LEXAR 40X COMPACT FLASH (CF)	
256MB 40X HSS Version	79^{95}
512MB 40X HSS Version	124^{95}
1024MB 40X HSS Version	229^{95}
8192MB 40X Pro Version	3179^{95}

NEW 80x LEXAR COMPACT FLASH

512MB 80X Pro Version	229^{95}
1024MB 80X Pro Version	449^{95}
2048MB 80X Pro Version	749^{95}
4096MB 80X Pro Version	1695^{95}

LEXAR MEMORY STICK (MS)	
128MB	65^{95}
256MB Switchable 2x128mb	109^{95}
256MB Pro Version	124^{95}
512MB Pro Version	329^{95}

LEXAR SECURE DIGITAL (SD)	
128MB	49^{95}
256MB	69^{95}
256MB 32X	99^{95}
512MB	159^{95}
512MB 32X	169^{95}

FLASH DRIVES/ USB MEMORY KEYS

These USB mini pocket drives allow you to transport your data quickly and easily

Lexar 256mb Jumpdrive Sport USB2	61^{95}
Lexar 512mb Jumpdrive Sport USB2	129^{95}
Lexar 256mb Jumpdrive Pro USB2	74^{95}
Lexar 512mb Jumpdrive Pro USB2	144^{95}
Sandisk 256mb Cruzer Mini USB2	84^{95}
Sandisk 512mb Cruzer Mini USB2	138^{95}

- Custom quotes available
- Corporate purchase orders welcome
- All Grey-Tech systems come with a full parts and labour warranty
- Prices already cash discounted, any other form of payment will be cash discounted plus surcharge.
- Prices subject to change without notice
- All products come with manufacturers warranty. We do not sell used items.
- We ship across Canada

Grey Tech reserves the right to withdraw pricing or [illegible] services without notice. Grey Tech does not assume responsibility for errors in [illegible]

16 Years In Business
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Markham, Ontario L3R 6A6
Telephone (905) 470-1425
Fax (905) 470-9556

GREY ✦ TECH
COMPUTER INC
HARDWARE ■ SOFTWARE ■ ACCESSORIES

Directions & Hours
6 Lights North of Steeles Avenue
1 Block West of Warden Avenue
Hours Monday Friday 9am 6pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

PROCESSORS

All include heatsink, fan and 3 year warranty

INTEL *CELERON PGA Retail*	
2.40Ghz (400Mhz 128mb cache)	106^{95}
2.50Ghz (400Mhz 128mb cache)	119^{95}
INTEL *PENTIUM 4 PGA Retail*	
2.40Ghz (533Mhz 1mB cache)	179^{95}
2.80Ghz (800Mhz 1mB cache)	239^{95}
3.00Ghz (800Mhz 512kb cache)	259^{95}
3.00Ghz (800Mhz 1mb cache)	259^{95}
3.20Ghz (800Mhz 512kb cache)	309^{95}
3.20Ghz (800Mhz 1mb cache)	309^{95}
3.40Ghz (800Mhz 1mb cache)	Call
INTEL *PENTIUM 4 LGA Retail*	
2.80Ghz (800Mhz 1mB P4-520)	239^{95}
3.00Ghz (800Mhz 1mB P4-530)	259^{95}
3.20Ghz (800Mhz 1mB P4-540)	309^{95}
3.40Ghz (800Mhz 1mb P4-550)	369^{95}
3.60Ghz (800Mhz 1mb P4-560)	575^{95}
AMD *THOROUGHBRED Retail*	
XP 2200+ (266Mhz)	102^{95}
XP 2700+ (333Mhz)	155^{95}
AMD *BARTON Retail*	
XP 2600+ (333Mhz)	135^{95}
XP 2800+ (333Mhz)	205^{95}
XP 3200+ (400Mhz)	289^{95}
AMD *ATHLON 64 Retail*	
2800+ Socket 754 (333Mhz)	200^{95}
3000+ Socket 754 (333Mhz)	227^{95}
3200+ Socket 754 (333Mhz)	291^{95}
3400+ Socket 754 (333Mhz)	402^{95}
3500+ Socket 939 (333Mhz)	473^{95}
3800+ S[illegible] (333Mhz)	864^{95}

MOTHERBOARDS

FOR INTEL PROCESSORS	
ASUS P4VP-MX w/Video	72^{95}
GIGABYTE GA8S661FXM w/Video	90^{95}
ASUS P4S800-MX w/Video	97^{95}
ASUS P4S800	99^{95}
ASUS P4S800D	104^{95}
ASUS P4S800D-E-DX	145^{95}
ASUS P4PE2-X	90^{95}
ASUS P4P800-S	110^{95}
ASUS P4R800-VM w/ATI Video	116^{95}
ASUS P4P800-VM w/Video	136^{95}
ASUS P4P800-SE	136^{95}
ASUS P4P800 E-DX	163^{95}
ASUS P4C800-E-DX	255^{95}
ASUS P5GDM-VM w/Video LGA	116^{95}
ASUS P5GD1 w/Video LGA	204^{95}
ASUS P5AD2-DX LGA	318^{95}
ASUS P5AD2-PREM LGA	379^{95}
FOR AMD PROCESSORS	
ASUS A7V8X-X	76^{95}
ASUS A7V600-X	87^{95}
ASUS A7N8X X	91^{95}
ASUS A7V600	100^{95}
ASUS A7N8X-E-DX	130^{95}
ASUS K8V (for Athlon 64)	144^{95}
ASUS K8V SE (for Athlon 64)	164^{95}

SOUND CARDS

CREATIVE LABS	
Live 5.1 (OEM)	39^{95}
AUDIGY2 LS	72^{95}
AUDIGY2 ZS	131^{95}
AUDIGY2 ZS Gamer Limited Edition	160^{95}
AUDIGY2 PLATINUM ZS	239^{95}
AUDIGY2 PLATINUM ZS PRO	302^{95}

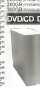
Shop online at
www.greytech.com

HARD DRIVES

Seagate
We turn on ideas.

SEAGATE *EIDE (PATA)*	
40GB (ST340014A) 2mb 5years	77^{95}
80GB (ST340011A) 2mb 5years	94^{95}
120GB (ST3120022A) 2mb 5years	112^{95}
120GB (ST3120026A) 8mb 5years	121^{95}
160GB (ST3160023A) 8mb 5years	137^{95}
200GB (ST3200822A) 8mb 5years	159^{95}
SEAGATE *SERIAL (SATA)*	
80GB (ST380013AS) 8mb 5years	98^{95}
120GB (ST3120026AS) 8mb 5years	128^{95}
160GB (ST3160027AS) 8mb SA2XB	151^{95}
200GB (ST3200822AS) 8mb 5years	171^{95}
SEAGATE *SCSI*	
18GB (ST-318453LW) 15 000 rpm	271^{95}
36.6GB (ST-336607LW) 10 000 rpm	224^{95}
36GB (ST 336753LW) 15 000 rpm	426^{95}
73.3GB (ST-373307LW) 10 000 rpm	417^{95}
73.3GB (ST-373453LW) 15 000 rpm	829^{95}
146GB (ST-3146807LW) 10 000 rpm	884^{95}
WESTERN DIGITAL *IDE (PATA)*	
80GB (800BB) 2mb	86^{95}
80GB (800JB) 8mb	95^{95}
120GB (1200BB) 2mb	125^{95}
120GB (1200JB) 8mb	124^{95}
160GB (1600JB) 8mb	136^{95}
200GB (2000BB) 2mb	163^{95}
200GB (2000JB) 8mb	171^{95}
250GB (2500JB) 8mb	260^{95}
WESTERN DIGITAL *Serial (SATA)*	
36GB (360GD) 8mb 10 000 rpm	170^{95}
74GB (740GD) 8mb 10 000 rpm	290^{95}
120GB (1200JD) 8mb	132^{95}
200GB (2000JD) 8mb	183^{95}
250GB (2500JD) 8mb	276^{95}
MAXTOR *EIDE (PATA)*	
160GB (6Y160L0) 8mb	124^{95}
200GB (6Y200P0) 8mb	159^{95}
250GB (7Y250P0) 8mb	260^{95}
300GB (5A300J0) 2mb	331^{95}

DVD/CD DUPLICATOR



$1022
3 target model

Dual Layer Supported

Simply put an original disc in the reader put blanks in each of the writers push the start button copies are ready in as little as 7 minutes

- Fully self contained tower unit
- Uses Pioneer 108 +/- OEM drives
- Supports new Dual Layer media for uncompressed video streams
- User friendly LCD interface
- Simple push button operation
- 32mb cache buffer for reliability
- Supports both + and – writing
- Auto speed drop for unqualified media
- Designed for continuous usage

3 Target unit (#GT-DVDQ56598)	$1022.00
7 Target unit (#GT-DVDQ56516)	$1547.00
9 Target unit (#GT-DVDQ56517)	$1783.00

OPTICAL DRIVES

CD/COWRITERS/DVD-ROM	
CD-ROMS	
LG 52x (EIDE)	22^{95}
LITE-ON 52x (EIDE)	24^{95}
DVD-ROMS	
LG DVD 16X	38^{95}
LITEON 16X	43^{95}
CD WRITERS	
LG (GCE-8525B) 52x32x52	39^{95}
PLEXTOR (W5224) 52x24x52	99^{95}
COMBINATION DRIVES	
(CD Writer and DVD Reader)	
LG (GCC-4521) 52x32 16X	69^{95}
DVD WRITERS	
FYI: minus media costs less but many writers only write high speed on more expensive plus media.	
INTERNAL MODELS	
PIONEER (DVR 108) 16x+/16x-DL	117^{95}
BENQ (DWL1620) 16x+ 12x-DL	144^{95}
PLEXTOR (PX-712A) 12x + 8x-	108^{95}
LACIE 8x + 8x #300732	177^{95}
LG (4082BB) 8x + 4x	99^{95}
LG (4120BB) 12x + 8x DL	118^{95}
EXTERNAL MODELS	
PLEXTOR PX708UFSW 8x + 4x	311^{95}
(both Firewire AND USB 2 interfaces)	
PIONEER 8x + 8x DL USB&1394	219^{95}
(both Firewire AND USB 2 interfaces)	
LACIE 8x + 8x USB#300735u	203^{95}

DVD / CD MEDIA

princo DVD-R
4.7GB, 4x

$29^{95}
spindle of 50

Ritek Brand DVD Media	
DVD-R 4x 25 Pack	24^{95}
DVD-R 4x 50 Pack	39^{95}
DVD-R 8x 12x 50 Pack (05 Dye)	49^{95}
DVD+R 4x 25 Pack	22^{95}
DVD+R 8x 25 Pack	39^{95}
DVD-R 4x 50 Pack *Printable*	49^{95}
DVD-R 4x 100 Pack *Printable*	90^{95}
CD-R Media	
Ritek 100 Bulk Pack	27^{95}
Ritek 50 Bulk Pack *Printable*	19^{95}

DVD/JEWEL CASES

Jewel Case Single Acrylic		0.25
Pack of 50	$10	
Pack of 100	$16	
Jewel Case Single (Slim) Acrylic		0.21
Pack of 50	$6^{50}	
Pack of 100	$14	
Jewel Case Double Acrylic		0.39
Pack of 50	$13	
Pack of 100	$23	
Jewel Case Quad Acrylic		0.75
Pack of 50	$32	
Pack of 100	$60	
DVD Case Single Vinyl		0.59
Pack of 50	$20	
Pack of 100	$35	
DVD Case Single (Slim) Vinyl		0.59
Pack of 50	$20	
Pack of 100	$35	
DVD Case DOUBLE Vinyl		0.69
Pack of 50	$26^{50}	
Pack of 100	$40	
White Window Envelopes Pack of 100 for CD & DVD's		9.90

CASES

GREY-TECH	
GT-5130 (500 watts, USB, CSA)	44^{95}
GT-80569 (200 watts, USB)	89^{95}
(Home Theatre/PVR micro desktop)	
RMC4S 4u Rackmount chassis	269^{95}
(with Enermax 350 watt power supply)	
RMC4S 450 watt version	319^{95}
SCORPIO	
868W-B (800 watts USB, audio)	79^{95}
(Black with red accents, 3 fans window)	
ANTEC	
P100 (Aluminum no power IO panel)	172^{95}
SONATA (380 watts, USB)	144^{95}
SUPERLANBOY (no power USB)	119^{95}
PLUS1080AMG (430 watts USB)	182^{95}
PLUSVIEW1000 (window no power)	107^{95}
SLK1600 (300 watts USB)	74^{95}
SLK1650 (350 watts USB)	89^{95}
SLK1650B (350 watts USB)	89^{95}
SLK2650BQE (300 watts, USB)	89^{95}
SLK3700AMB (350 watts USB)	106^{95}
SLK3700BQE (350 watts USB)	121^{95}
SX1000II (no power)	85^{95}
SX1040BII (400 watts)	144^{95}

VIDEO CARDS

CELESTICA ***Radeon Series***	
9200SE 64MB TVOut	63^{95}
9200SE 128MB, TVOut	74^{95}
9200 256MB TVOut	116^{95}
9600XT 128MB, TVOut	199^{95}
9600XT 256MB, TVOut	215^{95}
X300SE 64MB TVOut PCIX	105^{95}
X600XT 128MB, TVOut PCIX	259^{95}
X600 Pro 256MB, TVOut	560^{95}
ASUS ***Radeon Series***	
R9200SE/TD 128 128MB TVOut	74^{95}
R9600SE/TD 128MB TVOut	120^{95}
R9600XT/VTD 128MB VideoIn/Out	267^{95}
R9800PR/VTD 256MB, VideoIn/Out	479^{95}
R9800XT/VTD 256MB, VideoIn/Out	583^{95}
AX300SE 128MB, TVOut PCIX	137^{95}
AX600PRO 128MB, TVOut PCIX	233^{95}
AX600XT 128MB TVOut PCIX	320^{95}
AX600XTHD 128MB TVOut PCIX	353^{95}
AX800PRO 256MB TVOut	615^{95}
AX800XT 256MB TVOut	726^{95}
ATI TECHNOLOGIES	
Radeon Series	
9600XT 128MB	259^{95}
9600 Pro 128MB	340^{95}
X600 Pro 256MB	509^{95}
All-In-Wonder Series	
(Featuring TV Tuner Video Editing, Digital VCR)	
All-In-Wonder VE (PCI)	169^{95}
9000Pro 64MB	223^{95}
9600XT 128MB with remote	320^{95}
9800 Pro 128MB with remote	489^{95}

POWER SUPPLIES

ANTEC ***TruePower Series***	
TRUE Power 330 watts	77^{95}
TRUE Power BLUE 480 watts	144^{95}
TRUE Power 550 watts	159^{95}
ENERMAX	
Dual Fan 350 watts	69^{95}
NoiseTaker EG735P 370 watts	81^{95}
NoiseTaker EG425P 420 watts	100^{95}
NoiseTaker EG475P 470 watts	113^{95}
NoiseTaker EG701P 600 watts	175^{95}
GREY-TECH	
GT-420ATX 600 watts CSA	29^{95}

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Fax (905) 470-9656

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5 Lights North of Steeles Avenue
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Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

CRT MONITORS

ViewSonic P95F+

$\$341^{95}$

Also available in black

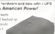
VIEWSONIC *17"*	
E70B	172^{95}
E70F / E70FB	195^{95} / 194^{95}
G70F	200^{95}
G71F+B / G71F+SB	214^{95} / 227^{95}
P70F	268^{95}
VIEWSONIC *19"*	
E90 / E90F	247^{95} / 298^{95}
E90FB	297^{95}
P95F+ / P95F+BK	341^{95} / 341^{95}
VIEWSONIC *21"*	
G810	584^{95}
G220FB	810^{95}
VIEWSONIC *22"*	
P220F	724^{95}
P225FB/P225F	819^{95} / 805^{95}
SAMSUNG *17"*	
793DF	179^{95}
SAMSUNG *19"*	
997DF	285^{95}
ACER 17" AC713	147^{95}

Convert your monitor to a TV!
Viewsonic's Nextvision video processors convert a CRT or LCD monitor to a television with remote control.

1024x768 resolution $129.95

POWER BACKUP

Protect your hardware and data with a UPS from *American Power!*



$\$78^{95}$

BACK UPS	
BE500U (11/24HR/300W)	78^{95}
BK500 (10/7HR/300W)	141^{95}
BR1000 (16/3HR/670W)	270^{95}
BR1500 (27/5HR/1000W)	312^{95}

The BR1500 lets the average server continue to run for over an hour when the power fails

BACK-UPS PRO	
BP280S (23/4HR/180W)	168^{95}
BP500UC (13/7HR/315W)	152^{95}
BP1000 (16/3HR/670W)	482^{95}
SMART-UPS	
SUA750XL (50/3HR/600W)	508^{95}
SUA1000 (20/3HR/670W)	525^{95}
SUA1000XL (33/5HR/800W)	663^{95}
SUA1500 (24/3HR/980W)	653^{95}
SU420NET (15/5HR/300W)	214^{95}
SU620NET (13/6HR/280W)	296^{95}
SU700NET (10/3HR/450W)	314^{95}
SU2200NET (32/5HR/1600W)	1011^{95}

(The bracketed numbers refer to a units backup time in minutes, recharge time, & wattage capacity)

LCD MONITORS

ViewSonic VP171B

$\$629^{95}$

BENQ *15*	
FP557 BS Black & Silver	420^{95}
BENQ *17*	
FP757-BS 12ms Black&Silver	574^{95}
FP757-WS 16ms White & Silver	534^{95}
FP767 BS 16ms Black&Silver	555^{95}
BENQ *19"*	
FP951 Grey & Black	871^{95}
VIEWSONIC *15"*	
VE510B / VE510S	456^{95} / 449^{95}
VIEWSONIC *17"*	
VE700 / VE175	533^{95} / 606^{95}
VE710B / VE710S	536^{95} / 536^{95}
VG700B	637^{95}
VP171B (16ms 500:1 1280x1024)	929^{95}
VIEWSONIC *18"*	
VP181B	914^{95}
VP181S	914^{95}
VIEWSONIC *19"*	
VX900	913^{95}
VG900B	742^{95}
VP191B / VP191S	926^{95} / 926^{95}
VIEWSONIC *20"*	
VX2000	1244^{95}
ENVISION *15"*	
5200E Silver	430^{95}
ENVISION *17"*	
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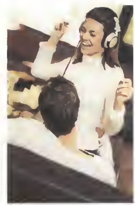

How to buy a stereo when you're living in a smaller space

You love music, you've just moved into a great apartment, and you're ready to buy a great stereo system to match. The trouble is, your great apartment is less than 500 square feet. Can you still find a system that suits your space?

Of course the answer is yes, but some research may help you decide on the best equipment to buy when space is at a premium. "It's the same advice as when you're buying furniture for a small space," says Richard Bowden, sales manager for BayBloorRadio, "everything has to be really efficient. So if you want to have a TV and music, make sure that you're not duplicating or having multiple systems." In this case investing in a home theatre system might make more sense than a separate stereo.

Whereas in previous years buying small systems meant buying lower quality, technology has changed all that. Says Bowden, "Ten or fifteen years ago if you wanted something small you were often buying something that was a portable unit or a modified portable unit; today there's an awful lot of product that's very good but also very small."

Beyond just choosing smaller components, the ideal arrangement in a tight space is to make the system, or at least the speakers, disappear altogether. Options include putting them on a shelf, mounting them on the wall, or even putting them inside the wall. John Chauk Jr., vice president of sales for AudioExcellence, does

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consultations on high end audio installations. Some clients start planning their audio installations before their spaces are even built, designing in wall systems from blueprints. For those who already live in small spaces like a condominium unit, breaking into the walls may not be as convenient. "If you're in a condo, going in wall might not be practical because often even the interior walls are concrete, so it becomes difficult to put speakers in the wall."

Wireless speakers can also be a way to avoid a tangle of wires, although Chaulk warns that the fact that they rely FM principles, means that sometimes the sound can be less reliable. "As in many decisions, buyers must weigh convenience and performance in order to decide on what system is best for them."

> *"today there's an awful lot of product that's very good but also very small."*
> *Richard Bowden, sales manager for BayBloorRadio*

Today's tinier speakers are actually better for sound in a small space, says Bowden. "Keep in mind that small speakers in a small space will sound better than big speakers in a small space. As opposed to looking at the square footage you're really looking at the volume of the area, so you don't want to overload it. A small speaker playing at a moderate level will sound very good but a big speaker at a low level often doesn't come into its own optimum performance levels."

Just because someone lives in a small space does not necessarily mean they have a small budget. Says Bowden, it's ultimately best to look at your own budget and consider the investment. "When you live in a city like Toronto there's an awful lot of people who have a lot of money but still live in a small space. So the trick is to buy the best quality you can."

By Sue Bowness

Sound Suggestions

Other factors besides apartment size can affect your decision on buying a stereo. For instance if you have a long narrow apartment you'll want to define the area where you'll do the most listening and put your speakers there. You can also arrange a multi-room sound set up for an apartment with several small rooms, where speakers in each room (or even at each end of a narrow apartment) allow you to have a consistent volume throughout the space rather than having to crank up the volume in central area just to hear it down the hall.

Your apartment's own materials can also make a significant difference to sound quality. To understand how soft surfaces affect sound, BayBloorRadio's Richard Bowden suggests comparing the way that your voice sounds in a tiled bathroom with no towels to how it sounds in a living area with carpets and upholstered furniture. The difference between the bright harsh resonance of a room without any absorption and a room with softer materials is remarkable, says Bowden. "As soon as you do something as simple as putting one rug in the place it will be the biggest single improvement in sound quality, bigger than buying better speakers. The combination of different types of surfaces is an unbelievable improvement."

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Rio recently expanded it line in Canada with the Rio Carbon 5 GB the Rio Forge 512 MB, 256 MB and 128 MB Suggested retail prices run $349, $299, $249 and $199 respectively Rio claims a tested battery life of 20 plus hours along with a slick metallic, ergonomic design and bright backlit display in the HD-based player.

The Rio Carbon 5 GB can hold up to 80 hours of MP3 audio recorded at 128 kbps or 160 hours of WMA audio at a lower quality 64 kbps The Forge line features expandability with an SD/MMC memory card slot and a USB 2.0 connection for faster transfer and claims a similar 20 hours of battery life on a single (presumably high quality) AAA battery

Rio expands Canadian line

In October, Timex plans to release the latest addition to its analogue watch series the Perpetual Calendar watch The company claims the Perpetual Calendar as "among the most sophisticated quartz analog timepieces ever available "

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Watches in the Perpetual Calendar line will retail between $95 and $120 and will be available with a leather strap, expansion band or stainless steel bracelet, Timex says

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Video Card, Sound Card & LAN Card On Board
ATX 0867 Case w/450W P/S
3in1 (KB & MC & SPK) Combo
1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive

$399

Recommended Upgrade

AMD Athlon 2500+	+$40
AMD Athlon 2800+	+$80
AMD Athlon 3000+	+$130

ICCT-DIYB/DIYC

ICCT-DIYB

AMD Athlon XP2800
Asus A7N8X
512MB DDR PC-3200
WD 80G HDD 8M
Virgo 811 Case
ATI Radeon9200SE 128
LG CDRW & DVD Combo
1.44MB FDD
LAN & Audio On Board

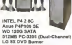
$699

ICCT-DIYC

Intel Celeron 2.4G
ASUS P4SP-MX
256MB DDR333
Maxtor 40G HDD
BenQ 56X CD-ROM
1.44 MB Floppy Drive
ATX 2713 Case with Front USB
NIC & Sound Card On Board

$339

Game System



INTEL P4 2.8C
Asus P4P800 SE
WD 120G SATA
512MB PC-3200 (Dual-Channel)
LG 8X DVD Burner
ATX 0310 Case with 450W P/S
ATI Radeon 9600XT 128M
Microsoft Optical Mouse and Keyboard Combo
1.44MB FDD

$999

Recommended Upgrade.

INTEL P4 3.0C	+$80
INTEL P4 3.2C	+$140
ATI Radeon 9800Pro 128M	+$80

Super Gamer

AMD 64Bit 2800+
Asus K8V SE DX
Kingston 1G PC3200 (Dual-Channel)
160G SATA 8M HDD
ATI Radeon 9800Pro 128M
LG 4120 12X DVD Burner
Thermaltake V5000A Case
Microsoft Optical Mouse and Keyboard Combo
1.44MB FDD

$1399

Recommended Upgrade

AMD 64Bit 3000+	+$35
AMD 64Bit 3200+	+$104
AMD 64Bit 3400+	+$214
ATI Radeon 9800Pro 256M	+$88

$379
BenQ 15" FP547

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BenQ 15" FP567

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BenQ 17" FP731

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BenQ 19" FP931

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Samsung 17" 710V

$495
Samsung 17" 713V

$695
Samsung 19" 913V

[illegible]
LG 17" 1718S

CRT MONITOR

AOC FT700 17" Flat CRT	$135
MAG 770PF 17" Flat CRT	$139
Samsung 19" 955DF Beige	$249

More ... www.icct.ca

MAIN BOARD

Intel Compatible

ASUS P4SP-MX	$68
ASUS P4P800	$124
ASUS P4C800-E Deluxe	$235

ASUS P4P800 E-Deluxe
$145

AMD Compatible

ABIT VA 10	$66
ASUS A7N8X	$168
ASUS K8V	$133

VIDEO CARD

$289
ATI Radeon 9800 Pro (Retail Box)

ATI 9600XT 128M Retail	$229
ATI A-I-W 9600XT	$282
ATI Radeon 9800 Pro 256M	$389
ATI Radeon X800 Pro 256M	$579

HARD DRIVE

Maxtor 80G 2M	$77.0
Maxtor 120G 2M	$105
Seagate 120G SATA	$119

$299

$449

$44

NOTEBOOK

Acer TM292 ELCi
INTEL Celeron-M 1.3GHz / 256MB
WinXP-H, 15" TFT
40G HDD, 802.11g
DVD/CDRW, USB,10/100,1394, 56K
$1199

Acer AS1356LCi-XPH
AMD XP-M-2800+ / 2x256MB
30GB HDD, 15" TFT
WinXP-H, 802.11b
DVD/CBRW, USB, 56K, LAN, 1394
$1299

Acer TM2101WLC-ENG
INTEL Celeron 2.4G / 256MB
40GB HDD
15.4" TFT, WinXP-H
DVD/CDRW, LAN, 56K
$1299

Acer TM2601WLC XPH
INTEL P4-2.8G / 2x256MB
40G HDD, 15.4" TFT
WinXP Home
DVD/CDRW, LAN, 56K, 4xUSB 2.0
$1599

Acer TM4001WLCi-XPH
INTEL Centrino 1.5G 1MB / 2x256M
40G HDD, WinXP-H
15.4" TFT, LAN, 56K
DVD/CDRW 802.11b 1394 USB 2.0
$1599

Toshiba Tecra A2-CM101E
INTEL PM 1.4GHz / 256MB
40G Hard Disk, 14.1" TFT
CDRW/DVD
Windows XP-PRO
$1859

Toshiba Tecra M2-00QS5
INTEL PM 1.5GHz / 512MB
40GB HDD
CDRW/DVD W/M/L
Windows XP Pro
$2139

Toshiba Tecra M2-0NQK5
INTEL PM 1.6GHz / 512MB
40G Hard Disk, 14" TFT
CDRW/DVD, M/L/W
Windows XP-PRO
$2329

Toshiba Tecra M2-0Q9MT
INTEL PM 1.6GHz / 512MB
60GB HDD, 14.1" TFT
CDRW/DVD W/M/L
Windows XP Pro
$3059

Toshiba SAT P20-1U8PW
INTEL P4 3.2GHz / 512MB
60G Hard Disk, 17" TFT
DVD/R-RW M/L/W
Windows XP-MCE
$2799

PDA/MP3/PRINTER

Palmone Tungsten E

$246

$235
RIO Nitrus 1.5GB Hard Drive Player

Palmone Tungsten T3	$479
HP IPAQ4150 Pocket PC	$559
Samsung Laserjet ML-1740	$195
HP Laserjet 1012 Printer	$289

More ... www.icct.ca

NETWORKING

D-Link Wireless G PCI Card	$64
D-Link 4-Port Router	$44.5
LinkSys Wireless G PCI Card	$73.9
LinkSys Wireless G USB Adapter	$73.9

More ... www.icct.ca

$82.9
LinkSys Wireless G Router

OPTICAL DRIVE

LG 52x32x52 CDRW	$33
Toshiba 8X DVDRW	$82
Pioneer 108D 16X DVD+/-RW OEM	$119
Plextor 712A DVD+/-R/RW	$205

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$102
LG 4120
12X DVD+/-RW

40066824

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390 College St.
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TEL: 416-921-0702

First Glance

Fuji Photo Film Canada recently announced the latest additions to its line of digital cameras Of particular note, the FinePix E550 Zoom features a 2" glare free LCD display, 4X optical zoom and an ISO range of 80 – 800

The camera records images in CCD-RAW or JPEG formats and uses the xD Picture Card format to provide lower power consumption, fast write speeds and the potential for large storage capacities

The E550 will hit store shelves with its brethren the E500 and E510 in September Prices run $399 for the E500, $499 for the E510 and $599 for the more capable E550

All cameras in the E500 line are PictBridge compatible for wireless printing on a similarly equipped printer

Fujifilm FinePix 500 series

Hot Computer Deals 416-742-8951

QUALITY OFF-LEASE PENTIUM SYSTEMS

Tower $95. DELL OR COMPAQ Pentium 2 350MHz 64MB SDRAM 6.4GB Hard Drive CD ROM, Floppy, 10/100 Ethernet, AGP Video, Sound Keyboard & Mouse	Tower 189. DVD Pentium 3 550MHz 128MB SDRAM 10GB Hard Drive DVD-ROM, Floppy, 10/100 Ethernet Video, Sound Keyboard & Mouse	Tower $209 DELL OR COMPAQ Pentium 3 733MHz 128MB SDRAM, 10GB Hard Drive CD ROM, Floppy 10/100 Ethernet Video, Sound Keyboard & Mouse	$289. hp CD Burner! Pentium 3 1 0GHz 256MB SDRAM CD-Burner 20GB Hard Drive 10/100 Ethernet Video/Sound Keyboard/Moude

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+ This Month's Hottest Deals +

17" DELL Dell Trinitron Non Flat $49.	Video Cards Nvidia AGP 16MB In Stock New Pulls $9.99	21" Hitachi Elite 21 Grade B Great Picture Plastic Case Discoloured $95.	$389 hp Tower Pentium 4 1 7GHz 256MB SDRAM LG CD-Burner 20GB Hard Drive 10/100 Ethernet Video/Sound

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Price Only Effective Between Sept 01 - 07 '04 (Check our website for updated prices)
ALL LIST PRICES ARE ALREADY CASH DISCOUNTED, ANY OTHER FORM OF PAYMENT WILL BE AT REG. PRICE

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20G, XP Home
Intel 855GME 64Mb
15" XGA, DVD/CDRW
802.11g
$1900*
*After $?? MIR

XNote LS60-BQUU1
1.70Hz, 256DDR
40 ... 5400
15" ...
XP Pro, DVD/CDRW
802.11g
$2300*
*After $100 MIR

acer
TM292ELCi
CELERON 1.30Hz, 256, 256DDR, Max ... Video Shared, DVD/CDRW 14" TFT, 802.11g, XP Home
$1250

LG Electronics

LG T710BH
17" CRT
1280x1024
.20 FLATRON
$155

LG 1710s
17" LCD TFT
1280x1024 ...
.26mm 500:1 16ms
$470

acer
Ferrari 3200 AMD64
Athlon64 Mobile 3000+, 512, 2x256DDR, 60 ... 128M, DVD+/- Burner, 15" TFT, 802.11g, Bluetooth, XP Pro
$2690

ASUS
P5GD1 LGA775 P4 MB
Intel 915P chipset
PCI Express Architecture
...
Dual-Channel DDR400
High Definition Audio
Serial ATA & IDE RAID
$200

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Support dual Intel Xeon & AMD MP CPU
Support and P4 and AMD XP & 64 CPU with enhance +12V output + 5V
$113

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Independent 12V rails supply to MB/CPU and drives
Support Intel P4 and Athlon 64 platforms, ... connector
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$79

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SyncMaster 191N Silver
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.294mm
700:1
25ms
$700

SAMSUNG
SyncMaster 710N LCD
17" LCD
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1280 x 1024
600:1 14ms
$530

SAMSUNG
SyncMaster 910V LCD
19" Viewable
1280 x 1024
.294mm
800:1
$714

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GeForce 6800GT
GPU with 256MB
35ms
$570

GeForce™ 6800 Ultra oc
256MB GDDR3, 425MHz, 2 DVI, Video-Out, AGP 8X
$730

Pioneer
DVR-108
16x DVD -/+R/RW
w/software
Black
(oem)
$142

BIOSTAR
iDEQ Mini PC
USB 2.0
Support Intel P4 and Celeron 533FSB SiS661 +692 Chipset
200S $250

MSI
RX-600 PCI Express
By ATI Radeon
128MB DDR
DVI/TV OUT
$270

RADEON 9600XT
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8X AGP
DVI
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Clearance Items | **Refurbish**

Photo Printer 630PL
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~Dye Diffusion Thermal Transfer
~Magic Coating Technology
~Borderless Photo Outputs (New)
$160

LG Electronics
Assorted 17" LCD
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60 Days Warranty
$300

COMPAQ
DeskPro EN
SFF or Mini Tower
P3-733
128M
10G HD
CD8
30 Days Warranty
$200

Value Barebone Series

Biostar P4VMA-M PM800 MB
Kingston 256M DDR 400MHz
Mitsumi 1.44 FD
Maxtor 40G IDE HD 7200
LG 8525B 52x32x52 CD-RW
Integrated S3 UniChrome Video,
6 Channel Sound
10/100 RJ45 Lan
ATX Mid Tower
350W Power Supply

(Monitor, KB & Mouse Sold Separate)
(Picture not exactly as shown)

Celeron D 2.4 GHz	D 2.8 GHz	P4-2.8E GHz
$399	$449	$539

Silver Platinum Series

MSI 915PCombo-FR MB
Kingston 256Mx2 Dual DDR
Mitsumi 7in1 FD Black
Maxtor 120G Serial ATA HD 7200
PCX5750 TD128 PCI Express
LG T710BH 1280 17" Monitor .24
LG 4120B 12x DVD+/-RW Drive
Integrated 8-Channel Sound
GbLAN & Raid
Black ATX Mid Tower
460W Enermax 24 Pin Power Supply
LiteOn Internet USB Keyboard
Microsoft USB Optical Mouse with Scroll
Creative SBS 2.1 350 Speaker & Subwoofer

FREE items

(Picture not exactly as shown)

P4 520 2.8E Ghz	P4 530 3.0E Ghz
$1429	$1509

Mini Value Series

Biostar ... nForce2 ... MCP (AMD)
or Intel ... (Intel)
Kingston 256M DDR 333MHz Memory
Mitsumi 1.44 FD
Maxtor 40G ATA133 7200rpm HD
LG 8520B 52x CD-ROM
Integrated Video, 6 Channels Sound
Gigabit Lan
Free
USB Watch w/128M Flash Memory

FREE

Intel Celeron 2.4Ghz **$549**
AMD Xp2200+ **$639**

Value Barebone Series

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Maxtor 40G IDE HD 7200
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LG8525B 52x32x52 CD-RW
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10/100 Lan
ATX Mid Tower (KMS-801)
350W Power Supply

(Monitor, KB & Mouse Sold Separate)
(Picture not exactly as shown)

Athlon XP 2200+	XP 2600+	XP 3200+
$399	$429	$569

Black Diamond Series

MSI K8MM-ILSR MB
Kingston 256M DDR 400MHz
Mitsumi 1.44 FD Black
Maxtor 80G IDE HD 7200
On Board Video
LG 17" 700sk Monitor
Mitsumi 488T 40x12x48 CD-RW
Integrated 6 Channel Sound 10/100 Lan
Silver/Black ATX Mid Tower
300W Power Supply
Black Internet PS/2 Keyboard
Black PS/2 Wheel Mouse with Pad
Labtec Spin55 Speakers
Lexmark Z605 Printer
1 Spindle of 50pcs 32x CDR
Microsoft WORKS 7.0

FREE items

(Picture not exactly as shown)

Athlon XP 2800+	XP 3000+	XP 3200+
$799	$829	$889

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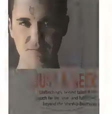
Just a Geek

Getting "slashdotted" may sound like a painful affair but in reality, it's great for your online rep. Getting FARKed every now and again can't hurt either, as demonstrated in Wil Wheaton's autobiography Just a Geek.

Just a Geek is—boiled down to the sum of its parts and stated simply—the story of Wil Wheaton's coming to terms with his role in Star Trek: The Next Generation and all the weirdness, fan adulation and sometimes venom that comes with it. Along with his thoughts on his fading Hollywood star.

Just a Geek
$36.95
ISBN 0-596-00768-X


WIL WHEATON
JUST A GEEK
Unflinchingly honest tales of the search for life, love, and fulfillment beyond the Starship Enterprise

A one chapter excerpt of Wil Wheaton's Just a Geek can be read online (PDF format) by going to

http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/jog/chapter/ch09.pdf

With excerpts from his weblog and clarifications thereof along with selected anecdotes, Wheaton gives readers—trekkies or not—what seems like an honest look into his life post Trek.

In short, if you hate Wil Wheaton for playing Wesley Crusher on Star Trek: TNG, you should probably stop doing that. Seriously. It isn't healthy.

Just a Geek is alternately exuberant, thought provoking and sad, sometimes self pitying. The book drives home its key point, Wil Wheaton is a pretty ordinary guy in a pretty extraordinary circumstance.

As one of my college professors once said, if your writing is self indulgent, it had better be good. In this case, it is (it's an autobiography after all) and it is. That said, he leaves no opportunity to make a point of the fact that he is a "great writer," often through the voice of those encouraging him in his pursuit and sometimes in his own voice.

If nothing else, the (former?) actor's most famous roles (that somewhat nerdy kid in Stand By Me and that somewhat nerdy elder kid in Star Trek: The Next Generation) afford him the opportunity to write down the details of his life and have people care.

Filled with melancholy early on but without the sex and drug scandals that accompany many "Hollywood" autobiographies Just a Geek is bursting with geeky in- ☞

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NEC 16x DVD 28
SONY
16xDVD 38
52x32x52 CDR/W 38
16xDVD/CDRW COMBO 53
LITEON CDR/W BLACK 39
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D-LINK
530TX NIC 11
OTHERS
RJ45 CONNECTOR 0.25
WIRELESS NETWORKING
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INEXQ 11B ROUTER 46
WIRELESS G
LINKSYS WRT54G ROUTER 90
PHOEBE RT210W G ROUTER 74
PHOEBE USB G ADAPTER 47

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56K MODEM
SOFTWARE
Norton Antivirus 2004 39
INTERNET SECURITY 2004 38
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SAMSUNG
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VIEWSONIC
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LEXMARK Z35 PRINTER 48
LEXMARK X75 All-In-One 88
BROTHER HL1435 LASER 150
BENQ 5300U SCANNER 50

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Intel Pentium	4	3.2Ghz	(800FSB)	$1,349	[illegible]

WARRANTY - 2YRS PARTS / 5YRS LABOR

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- ASUS K8T800 AMD 64 Chipset
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- 256Mb DDR Radeon 9550 Video
- 17" Flat CRT Monitor .24dp
- 52x32x52x CDRW + 16x DVD
- 1.44Mb Floppy Drive
- 104 Logitech Internet Keyboard
- Logitech Optical Mouse w/Wheel
- 5.1 Dolby 3DS Sound Card
- 10/100 Network Card
- Altec Lansing AVS121 Spkrs w/Sub
- Microsoft Windows XPH

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					PER MONTH
AMD Athlon	64	3400+	(800FSB)	$1,299	$63
AMD Athlon	64	3400+	(800FSB)	$1,342	[illegible]
AMD Athlon	64	3400+	(800FSB)	$1,449	$63

WARRANTY - 2YRS PARTS / 5YRS LABOR

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- 256 Mb DDR RAM
- 40.2Gb UDMA Hard Drive
- 32Mb Intel Extreme 3D Video
- 17" CRT Monitor .27dp
- 52x24x52x CDRW Drive
- 1.44Mb Panasonic Floppy Drive
- 104 Internet Keyboard
- [illegible] Mouse
- 32bit On-Board Sound Card
- 10/100 Integrated Network Card
- Stereo Speakers
- Microsoft Windows XPH

email SALES@OZTECH.CA for Custom Quote

Intel Celeron	2.4 Ghz	(400FSB)	$ 7[illegible]
Intel Celeron	2.8 Ghz	(400FSB)	$ 7[illegible]
Intel Pentium 4	2.4 Ghz	(533FSB)	$ 829

WARRANTY - 2YRS PARTS / 5YRS LABOR

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PowerMac G5 Dual 2.0Ghz. . $4199

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I B M Laptops

Model	CPU	DISPLAY	RAM	HD/LAN/CDR/DVD	PRICE
ThinkPad G40	C-2.4Ghz	14.1"TFT	256MB	30Gb/Lan/CDR+DVD	[illegible]
ThinkPad G40	P4-2.6Ghz	15.1"TFT	256MB	40Gb/WLan/CDR+DVD	[illegible]
ThinkPad R51	CelM-1.3Ghz	15.1"TFT	256MB	40Gb/WLan/CDR+DVD	[illegible]
ThinkPad R51	Cent-1.5Ghz	15.1"TFT	256MB	60Gb/WLan/CDR+DVD	[illegible]

Toshiba Laptops

Model	CPU	DISPLAY	RAM	HD/LAN/CDR+DVD	PRICE
Satellite A70	[illegible]	15"TFT	512Mb	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	15"TFT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Satellite M30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Satellite P20	[illegible]	17" [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tecra A1 [illegible]	[illegible]	15" TFT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

CD & DVD Recorders

LaCie [illegible] Ext. FW/USB2 ... $[illegible]
Pioneer DVD-RW [illegible]
Pioneer DVD-RA07 8xDVD-RW ... $[illegible]
Sony DVDR [illegible] DVD-RW USB & FW [illegible]
More Recorders @ www.oztech.ca

Hard Drives

[illegible]
[illegible]
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Sound Cards

SoundBlaster Live! Audigy 1 ... $[illegible]
SoundBlaster Live! Audigy ... $130
SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Audigy [illegible]
SoundBlaster Live! Platinum Audigy2 [illegible]
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VIDEO CARDS & VID-CAP

[illegible]
ATI All-In-Wonder Radeon [illegible]
ATI All-In-Wonder Radeon [illegible]
ATI Fire GL T2 128Mb DDR [illegible]
PC Radeon [illegible]
ATI TV Wonder Tuner VE PCI / USB [illegible]
[illegible]
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Professional Software

MS Office 2003 [illegible]
Red Hat Linux 9 Professional [illegible] $[illegible]
Adobe PhotoShop 7.0 [illegible]
Adobe Illustrator [illegible]
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MP3 Players

Creative Nomad Muvo 64 128Mb $[illegible]
Creative Nomad Muvo NX 256Mb $[illegible]
Creative JukeBox Zen 20Gb ... $[illegible]
River Prism 128Mb/256Mb $[illegible]
Apple Ipod 20Gb/40Gb $[illegible]
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MINI-DV Digital Camcorders

Canon [illegible] MiniDV [illegible]
Sony DCR-HC[illegible] MiniDV [illegible]
Sony DCR-PC[illegible] MiniDV [illegible]
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Digital Cameras

Canon PowerShot A80 [illegible]
Canon PowerShot [illegible]
Canon PowerShot [illegible]
Fuji FinePix A340 [illegible]
Fuji FinePix E550 [illegible]
HP PhotoSmart R707 [illegible]
Kodak [illegible]
Sony CyberShot P73 3xO-Zoom [illegible]
Sony CyberShot P93 3xO-Zoom [illegible]
Sony CyberShot F828 7xO-Zoom [illegible]
More Cameras @ www.oztech.ca

Scanners

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Epson Perfection [illegible]
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Printers

Canon [illegible]
Epson Photo [illegible]
Epson 2200 Photo 7-Ink 13x19" Format [illegible]
HP LaserJet 1012 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Color Laser [illegible]
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K V M Auto-Switches

[illegible]
Belkin KVM 2 [illegible] PCs [illegible]
Belkin KVM 2 [illegible] PCs [illegible]
Keyboard/Video/Mouse Cables [illegible]
More KVM @ www.oztech.ca

Data Media

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DAT Tapes [illegible]
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Creative Inspire [illegible]
Creative Inspire [illegible] Digital 5.1 [illegible]
[illegible]
Klipsch Pro-Media THX 1.1 Black [illegible]
Yamaha [illegible]
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[illegible]
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DVD [illegible] E-IDE Pioneer (Black) [illegible]
DVD [illegible]
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Backup Drives

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[illegible] DAT [illegible] Seagate [illegible] SCSI [illegible]
[illegible] DAT [illegible] Seagate [illegible] SCSI [illegible]
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Motherboards

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Apple NoteBooks

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PowerBook G4	1.33Ghz	15.2"TFT	256Mb	80Gb/WLan/M/Cmbo	$3[illegible]
PowerBook G4	1.5Ghz	17" TFT	512Mb	80Gb/WLan/M/Cmbo	$3[illegible]

L G Extreme Notebooks

Model	CPU	DISPLAY	RAM	HD LAN CDR+DVD	PRICE
LG L[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LG L500 Pro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LG L[illegible] Pro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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Palm Zire 72 [illegible]
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Palm Tungsten C [illegible] 2.9"TFT Color [illegible]
HP IPAQ 1940 [illegible] 3.5"TFT Color [illegible]
HP IPAQ 2210 [illegible] 3.5"TFT Color [illegible]
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NEC 18" TFT LCD [illegible]
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InFocus LP640 LCD 2200 Lumens XGA [illegible]
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LinkSys WPC11 PC Card (Laptop) [illegible]
LinkSys WMP11 PCI Card [illegible]
SMC Wireless [illegible] PC Card [illegible]
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SMC Wireless 802.11B Router+Switch [illegible]
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jokes sure to get at least a wry smile from those of us whose nerdy underpinnings come ever closer to the surface From the problems that come with moving from a hand-holding operating system like Windows to one that assumes if not requires a certain level of techspertise like the various distributions of Linux, Wheaton drives home the fact that he's "Just a Geek," in case the title isn't enough of a tip off

Wheaton's Just a Geek is a coming of age story; self-conscious but unapologetic. He isn't at the age to write a complete life story (unless he meets an untimely demise in the next few months … let's hope that doesn't happen) so some details are stretched thin in almost excruciating detail

On the whole though, readers with even a moderate interest to find out what happens to a Hollywood child star minus the unfortunate hard drug use and occasional felony charge would do well to give Just a Geek a look but will perhaps want to wait for a paperback version … assuming one is forthcoming.

by Andrew Moore-Crispin

If Just a Geek interests you think about checking out Who on Earth is Tom Baker the autobiography of the former Doctor Who Much grittier but ultimately more interesting

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The other side of audio

There are two newish formats currently on the shelves at your friendly neighborhood record store, both of which promise to open up a whole new world of high-quality sound that will blow away the CD.

DVD Audio (DVD-A)

As you can guess from the name, DVD Audio is an audio format that uses the DVD disc to deliver high-definition audio. It's worth noting, though, that because the DVD Audio spec uses the full disc for audio information, it's capable of achieving a sample rate of 192 KHz at 24 bits. That means that DVD-A delivers higher quality audio than you'll find on your typical DVD movie (48 KHz at 16 to 20 bits) or the trusty old compact disc (44.1 KHz at 16-bits). All three formats use a packet-based system that reassembles the bits into an audio stream, but the more detailed data stream found in the DVD-A specification means audio that's much closer to an analogue signal.

Taking a cue from DVD videos, one of the interesting features of the new DVD Audio format is the ability to split an album into 5.1 sound. With skillful remixing, an album that was originally designed to be listened to in stereo can be turned into a surround sound extravaganza, allowing you to pick out individual instruments. Of course, many purists balk at this—after all, weren't the albums intended to be listened to in stereo, or in the case of the recently DVD-ified Pet Sounds, in mono?—but a higher-quality version of the original stereo mix is almost always still included.

To play back a DVD Audio title at full quality, you'll need a player that's marked with the DVD Video/Audio logo. DVD-A titles will play back on

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standard DVD video players, and will often even provide surround sound, but they will be playing back at the lower 48 KHz playback rate, which means your sound quality will barely be better than a standard CD. DVD Audio titles will not play at all in CD players

If you are getting a new DVD Audio player for the higher quality sound, you'll want to make sure that the back of the player has six separate outputs for the discrete audio channels (two front, two rear centre and subwoofer) and that you have a multi-channel receiver with the appropriate inputs.

Super Audio CD (SACD)

The other new high-definition format is Super Audio CD, designed by the same companies that developed the compact disc format. Though the discs have pretty much the same capacity as a DVD Audio disc, the SACD features a sampling rate of 2 8224 MHz at 1 bit resolution, also known as Direct Stream Digital. Many audiophiles prefer SACD, because the 1 bit encoding is designed to create a much more natural waveform than the packet based DVD-A, providing results that are theoretically much closer to analogue

DVD Audio players

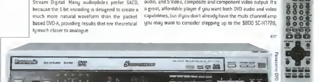
At the consumer level, DVD Audio players typically double as regular DVD players, just make sure the front of the player has the logo for both audio and video and that the rear of the player has the six discrete RCA style outputs if you want full-quality sound

Panasonic DVD-F87

www.panasonic.ca

SRP $300

Available in both silver and black, the DVD F87 is a 5-disc DVD audio and video player that will also play back your MP3 CDs. The player is quite easy to use, though it does have an annoying habit of holding onto the last disc you were playing even when you hit eject. The player has coax and 6 channel RCA output for audio, and S Video, composite and component video output. It's a great, affordable player if you want both DVD audio and video capabilities, but if you don't already have the multi channel amp you may want to consider stepping up to the $800 SC-HT720,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which features a similar player but with an 800 watt amplifier and 6 channel speaker set included

Super Audio CD players

Super Audio players are still a much more limited category, especially when it comes to consumer-friendly pricing Because the SACD requires a 1-bit digital-to-analogue converter, it requires specialty hardware inside that is still priced at a premium for models with full-quality playback Additionally, audiophile models may weigh a ton thanks to a plate in the bottom to prevent vibration The good news is that there's a growing number of players with SACD compatibility, at a more friendly price point The downside is that these players may not reproduce the audio at the full specification, especially if the player also handles DVD Video too, it may convert from 1-bit audio down to a lower-quality standard

Sony DVP-CX777ES

www.sonystyle.ca

SRP: $1,400

This new Sony model is a jukebox-style player that can handle up to 400 discs, either SACD or regular audio, and even better, it plays your DVD movies and MP3 CDs, too Because the internal carousel has to accommodate 400 discs, the player is a monolith, about twice the height of a typical CD/DVD player, and quite a bit deeper, too Though the player has optical and coax outputs, those only work for regular CDs and DVD video, you'll need to use the 6-channel RCA outputs for SACD output There are two analogue outputs for DVD aud/vid two S-Video outputs, and a single component video output The controls for the player can be a bit overwhelming, as can be the management of all of the discs inside, but if you just want to put all your discs into the player and call them up as necessary, a bit of practice will pay off

Combination DVD-A and SACD players

A growing trend in the world of high definition audio formats is the combination player one that will play back both DVD-A and SACD For these combo players, there's quite a price range depending on the decoding method Players that have discrete 24-bit and 1-bit digital-to-analogue converters still tend to have premium pricing, in large part because of the higher-priced 1-bit decoder

Samsung HD-DVD841

www.sameung.ca

SRP $300

This single-disc player has one nice advantage It plays Super Audio CDs, DVD Audio, DVD videos and regular audio CDs It has six RCA-style outputs for analogue audio, which you'll need for high-quality SACD and DVD-A output, and it will push the other formats through the coax or optical audio outputs There are composite, S-Video and component video outputs, as well as a DVI connector The player handles HD DVD video discs which means the it's ready for high definition on both the audio and video ends

by Seen Carruthers

Sony DVP-CX777ES

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First Glance

Canon Canada is gearing up to introduce its newest lightweight projector, the Canon LV-X4

The projector is equally at home in the living room for families building a home entertainment as it is in the office for projecting presentations in a small room, Canon says With a suggested retail price of $2,800 the LV-X4 will see release in September

Canon's latest in its line of projectors will replace the LV-X2 improving on the X2's 1,100 ANSI lumens (American National Standards Institute) brightness spec bringing the newer model to 1,500 ANSI lumens. Those in the know recommend a lumen rating of between 1,000 and 2,000 for a "small" room.

Canon LV-X4

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Get portable: new MP3 players

Every season, there's a new batch of digital audio players. We had the chance to look at a group of new players, and the operative word this season is "compact"

A trio of new drag-and-drop players

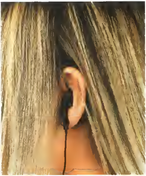
Many of the new compact MP3 players are designed for ease of file transfer as soon as you plug them into the USB port of your computer, they're recognized as external removable drives. This allows you to simply drag your music files from your computer and drop them onto the player, and the nice benefit of this is that so long as you already have another program creating your MP3 files, these players are equally usable on new Windows and Mac machines.

Creative MuVo TX FM

www.nomadworld.com

Estimated price $170 (128MB), $210 (256MB)

The MuVo's two piece design was pretty unique when it was first introduced, and it continues to be a very useful form factor. The player itself is the size and shape of a USB memory key, but it also features an LCD window, player controls and a headphone jack, to get songs onto the MuVo you just stick it into your computer's USB port and copy the songs over as if it was a memory key. Then, when you plug the MuVo into its battery sleeve (one AAA), it becomes a fully-functional MP3 player with FM radio, voice recording capability, and an extended menu system. The player comes with a sporty armband/beltclip combo, as well as a lanyard.



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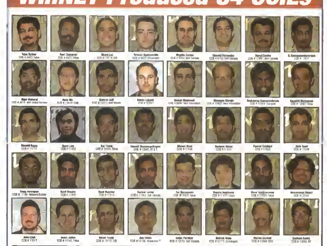

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MP3 is an acronym for MPEG layer 3, an algorithm for compressing audio files. A compression of 12 to one is possible with relatively little loss of perceptible quality.

BenQ Joybee 125

www.benq.ca

Estimated price: $200 (128 MB), $290 (256 MB)

Also designed to plug right into your computer when you want to top it up with tunes, the Joybee's USB connector retracts into the player, and it has a built in rechargeable Lithium Ion battery. The player features a built-in FM tuner and voice recorder and comes with a protective case and a lanyard. There are a few design quirks, most notably the need to drill down into the menu system to adjust the volume, but otherwise the player is a nice, attractive one that will help keep your desk free of stray cables. (One thing, though: the player's quite compact; if the area around your USB ports is a bit crowded you may want to shell out a couple of dollars for a USB extension cable.)

iRiver SlimX 550

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Samsung Yepp YPT5V

www.samsung.ca

Estimated price: $250

In a world of ever shrinking MP3 players, this Yepp model is impressively small: at just under an inch in its two shortest dimensions and about two inches in the longest, the YPT5V is about the same size as most other players' remote controls. Still, the player has 256 megs of storage, comes with an FM tuner and features voice/radio recording capability. It comes with a small belt clip as well as a lanyard. The menu system gives you a lot of control over your playback and sound, though large hands may find the tiny controls awkward. The player requires a single AAA battery.

Not so drag-and-drop players

IRiver SlimX 550

www.iriveramerica.com

Estimated price: US$150

Barely larger than the size of a CD, the SlimX 550 is already one of the smaller portable CD players out there. Add the ability to play back MP3 CDs and an FM tuner, and you've got a killer digital audio player. To keep the size of the player itself down, all of the controls have been relocated to the clip-on remote control, which features an LCD screen large enough to accommodate a full menu system. Two ultra thin NiMH rechargeable batteries hide inside the player, but there's also an external AA battery pack you can dangle off the side of the player if you run out of power. The only catch: you'll need access to a CD burner to make proper used of this one.

Apple iPod Mini

www.apple.ca/ipodmini/

Estimated price: $345

How do you go big while staying small? The iPod Mini manages to do both by shrinking the basic iPod concept. At a glance it looks like the scroll wheel's been replaced by the player controls, but the controller's actually both: press to activate the control, or run your finger along the wheel to scroll through your menu options. The player has pretty much the same feature set as the larger version of the iPod (including contacts, calendar, games and more), except the 4 GB hard drive only has enough space for about 1,000 songs—more expensive on a cost-per-song basis, but much more favourable when compared to similarly sized flash memory-based MP3 players. Best of all, the player comes with an aluminum casing, and you can now choose between silver, gold, green, pink or blue players. Still the best choice if you want your player to be as stylish as the music on it.

by Sean Carruthers

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First Glance

In the realm of portable storage, Verbatim announced its 2 1 GB Store 'n' Go USB HD Drive

Sporting a USB 2 0 connection to a 1-inch, 4,200 RPM hard disk drive, the Store 'n' Go is aimed at Windows, Mac and Linux users who need to transport large files

The 2 1 GB drive can store better than 2 hours of video encoded in MPEG 1, 500 hours worth of MP3s or 1,000 300dpi colour photos, Verbatim says

About the size of a business card but thicker and weighing about 1.8 oz the Store 'n' Go ships with a carrying pouch While solid-state portable storage options like USB keys haven't reached the 2 1 GB capacity of the Store 'n' Go, flash memory is less prone to failure from shock like an accidental drop than an HD drive

Verbatim Store 'n' Go USB HD Drive

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10/100 Network Interface
3D Sound O/B
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Pentium 4 @2.8 GHz

W/512 L2 Cache

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800 Mhz FSB
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Lottery: Find out if you've won the lottery in America, no Canadian lottos available

Call it Smart, call it SPOT or call it MSN Direct but don't call it "just a watch."

Watch manufacturers like Suunto and Fossil along with mere recent comer, Swiss watchmaker Tissot recently signing on to create next generation watches using the MSN Direct service

The basic idea is that users pay $99 99 a year or $14 95 per month to have news, stock prices, weather sports scores and select other information (including the time) sent wirelessly to a compatible watch

We got our hands on the Suunto N3 model, a large but accordingly rugged Smart Watch

When the watch is first put to use and after an awkward an ill-referenced start up procedure requiring users to hold a three-button combination for a few seconds to "wake" the it up users link it to an existing NET Passport (i e Hotmail login or NET associated email address) or create a new one in order to decide on the content to be delivered to the watch through a Web interface The watch then receives the selected content from FM radio towers in supported cities. Only major city centres in Canada—Montreal, QC, Ottawa, ON, Vancouver, BC, Toronto, ON and cities considered a part of the Greater Toronto Area—as well as major U.S cities ☞

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receive broadcasts

Generally speaking, the watch interface is well thought out, using five buttons (two left, three right) to navigate menus, scroll through news, change the view or erase items

Smart Watches and the MSN Direct service made their way to Canada fairly recently on June 15, though there is still a marked lack of regionalization of news and sports content

At the time of writing, the only Canada specific news service available in the Toronto area was Local News – CBC Toronto and, perhaps a direct affront to many Canadians, there are no hockey scores available

The service doesn't do much for individual tastes either; the available content caters to generic U.S. tastes. I would have liked Euro Cup 2004 updates to keep up on games I didn't actively watch, for example. Similarly, Olympic coverage leaves a lot to be desired; rather than create a channel for Olympics updates, users must rely on regular news coverage for the information.

Having the weather delivered to your wrist and being updated regularly (if not entirely accurately), it becomes as customary to have a look at the news and what the forecast has in store—current, three day and a wealth of other info including UV index, humidity, barometric pressure etc.—as it does to check the time

The watches vary in price, the least expensive of which goes for about $200 and the most expensive (the Tissot) goes for close to $1,200. The Suunto N3 tested clocks in at around $400

Signing up for a service plan for your wrist watch is something of a new experience—as is charging your watch every few days—while the information delivered is useful if sometimes lacking, it's may be a hard concept for some to swallow

By Andrew Moore-Crispin

Linux watch

In October 2001 IBM and Citizen announced a collaboration to create a smart watch using Linux. Little has been announced of late but when announced the WatchPad included a pager application to send and receive messages. Bluetooth functionality for connection to PDAs, cell phones and computers as well as a calendar and scheduling application

Other IBM prototypes have been displayed using OLED (organic light emitting diode) displays

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After scouring the bins for this round-up, the following are a few titles worth picking up. Prices may vary slightly, but here is what we found among popular Canadian software vendors.

Be sure to update each game by visiting its respective Web site for downloadable patches.

OK, here we go.

Starlancer

(Microsoft Game Studios; $6.99)

A hundred years from now, the world's major powers battle for the control of Earth, Mars and other nearby planets and their resources. As a novice pilot, you enlist as a volunteer for the Western Alliance, a union of nations including the United States, Great Britain and Japan. The enemy is the Eastern Coalition, comprised mainly of Russia and China. Gameplay involves dog-fighting in space from a dizzying first-person perspective. There are more than 25 lengthy missions in the single-player campaign, ranging from escorting allied ships to all out attacks on rival space stations. The successful completion of missions unlocks better spacecraft and more powerful weapons. The only beef with the game is the inability to save progress during a level, therefore failed missions must be restarted from the beginning.

Thief: The Dark Project

(Eidos Interactive; $9.99)

Stealth-action titles are popular today, and they can attribute much of their success to the influential Thief, a PC game from 1998 that focused on covertness rather than the kill-everything-in-sight directive found in most 3D shooters. The player becomes Garrett, a seasoned thief who must lurk in the shadows and remain undetected while sneaking into mansions and catacombs to steal various objects; the best way to complete these missions is to study a guard's patrol pattern and sneak around them or take them out

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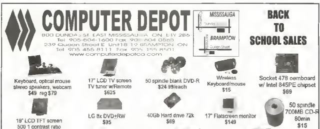

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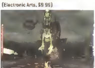
from afar with the aid of a bow and arrow Graphics fuse medieval like buildings and stone laced walkways with fantasy elements such as sorcery and demons

American McGee's Alice

(Electronic Arts, $9 99)



If Lewis Carroll were alive today to see how his literary works have been recreated for an interactive medium, he'd be grinning like the Cheshire Cat from his Adventures in Wonderland novel—that is if he doesn't mind a little, er creative interpretation For those who missed it the first time around game designer American McGee has created a wonderfully dark disturbing and beautifully crafted action adventure hybrid that takes the player through a surreal romp through the looking glass Alice must explore multiple worlds, solve conundrums and fight against the Queen's strange followers using her arsenal of deadly toys And you thought Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" was a twisted take on the tale!

By Marc Saltzman

Other recommended sub-$10 bargains include Microids two pack of Warrior Kings and Warrior Kings Battles ($9 99) Vivendi Universal's Aliens vs Predator ($9 99) and Ubisoft's original Myst ($7 99)

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First Glance

Canon recently announced the launch of its newest digital SLR (single lens reflex) camera the EOS 200

The company claims the highest performance in its class with high image quality, light weight, a rugged body and ease of use

The EOS 200 will carry a suggested retail price of $2,500 without a lens and $2,800 with the EF 5 18 55mm f/3.5 – 5 6 zoom lens included

Canon says it's aiming the EOS 200 at advance amateurs enthusiasts and pros specifically, wedding and event photographers. With a manufacturer stated 65 millisecond shutter release lag and a start up time of 0.2 seconds combined with a five frames-per-second burst mode and a excellent low light performance (Canon claims that the EOS 200 suffers about the same noise at 1600 ISO than its younger brother the EOS 100 at 400 ISO), the EOS 200 states itself as a good fit with photo journalists too

Canon EOS 20D

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The most recent addition to Casio's digital piano line, the PX-400R is set to hit stores in September with a street price of US$1,099.95. Casio generally pays special attention to the feel of its digital pianos, a detail that sets them apart. The PX-400R's keyboard uses no springs and features keys that are scaled such that lower range keys feel heavier while higher notes feel lighter, mimicking the feel of an acoustic piano.

Also of note are the Smart Media card slot for recorded song storage, a USB port for saving and downloading songs and a MIDI in/out jack.

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Olympus W-10 digital voice recorder

Students heading back to school or moving along in their education to post-secondary would be well advised to get some form of voice recorder.

University students with heavy eyelids in a morning class have long since realized the benefits of having an audio record of Professor Fizzlebottom's no doubt fascinating lecture when it comes time for midterms. Lecture goers thinking of an Olympus W-10 Digital Voice Recorder had better hope he keeps it brief however.

While in LP (long player) mode, the W-10 is capable of recording up to 180 minutes of audio. However, for a usable recording in anything other than the most optimum of conditions, users should be prepared to sacrifice length for clarity.

Using HQ (high quality) the recorder takes up to 45 minutes of audio, the middle ground SP (standard playback) mode offers up to 60 minutes of record time on the 16MB of internal storage space. Without any expandability short of user modification (a quick Google suggests that no one has tried, so you'd be breaking new ground ... if it were worth the time and effort), the unit's relatively small price tag of about $120 becomes less of a selling point.

One potentially serious strike against the W-10—depending how you plan to use it—is the lack of a mic-in jack. While the embedded microphone works well in SP recording mode in a lecture hall setting (tested in a press conference), in one on one meetings or for dictation, anyone that needs or wants to record a telephone conversation will quickly be stymied.

The W-10 packs in a small VGA (640x480) camera, which is a neat touch. Perhaps the best aspect of said camera is that it has a sort of "retro" feel to it. Rather than holding the camera vertically, as is accepted practice in devices with a low resolution camera augmented into the design, users hold the 12cm long by 3cm wide and about 2cm thick voice recorder horizontally, it looks and feels somewhat like an old 110 mm cassette-loading film camera. Hardly a bullet point for the ☛

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marketing department to exploit but neat nonetheless

Users can record voice and take pictures at the same time, which likely won't be much help in Prof Fizzlebottom's lecture (there's probably a reason you have your eyes closed in the first place beyond last night's over indulgence) but could prove useful to real estate agents, building contractors or anyone that needs to correlate notes and photographs in one place

Connecting the W10 to our Windows XP Pro test bed PC presented some small but easily rectified problems I assumed (having not read the manual, this is supposed to be a real-life test after all) that upon plugging the recorder in to an XP machine using the supplied USB cable, it would show up as a direct-access drive Not so After installing the Olympus Voice Album software (and updating the generic driver assigned by Windows in system manager when it was first plugged in), the device was recognized immediately However, it can only be accessed using the supplied software Fortunately, the software is pretty good Unfortunately, it's only compatible with Windows and the fact that the device can't be plugged into a system cold for users to remove the sound files within, renders it is largely useless to Mac and other OS users

If users decided to record voice and still images at the same time they can play back the audio stream in Voice Album and see the related pictures display automatically at the point in the recording they were taken, according to hash marks on the audio time line

Considering the W-10's price relative to other digital recorders its shortcomings in storage and potential for use beyond dictation or lecture halls are easier to forgive The admittedly low resolution camera and the simple yet relatively powerful software that ships with the unit sweeten the deal somewhat.

That said, for a voice recorder to be truly effective, a usable recording longer than one hour is all but requisite for other than short notes-to-self with correlating pictures

Consider selling out for a recorder with larger internal storage and / or memory card expandability if the effective one hour record time doesn't sound like enough

By Andrew Moore-Crispin

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Audio in motion

MSRP for Clarion DXZ945MP - $829 95

MSRP for Sony XAV 7W $1 499 99

It may be true that there's no place like home, but it can be argued that there's no place quite like the confines of the automobile either At the start of the year, Clarion released the DXZ945MP, which received honours at the 2004 Innovations International CES Design and Engineering Showcase for its Optimedia technology

Clarion DXZ945MP

Aside from being your standard CD/MP3/WMA player, Clarion seems to have packed this thing with everything from 2-Zone entertainment to sound processing technology ranging from Dolby Pro Logic II to anti distortion filtering.

Greg Arroyo, marketing materials manager for Clarion of America, describes the unit as one "best-suited for intense system build-ups" The multitude of options here would suggest that anything simplistic on the DXZ945MP might be hard to come by Not so, says Arroyo

"Those looking for simple controls can switch the unit to Simple mode with a single swipe of the unit's display screen to get basic tone controls," Arroyo says

Sony XAV-7W

With a flip-out motorized 7-inch TFT screen, this unit carries a lot of flash but tries to keep things simple In this case, however, the screen is meant primarily for the front seat passenger, since the driver would only really use it if they attached a navigation device From a sound perspective though, the unit seems to be aimed at the driver Along with the CD/MD changer controls, TV tuner and other standard options, the driver has a choice between seven different sound presets

"The driver controls the sound," says John Challinor, general manager of corporate communications for Sony of Canada "The MD/CD/AM/FM tuner head unit with the screen attached basically makes the unit an AV centre"

Though nowhere near as deep in audio controls as Clarion's unit, Sony's XAV-7W boasts a fairly straight-forward interface, albeit with a focus on multimedia functionality via the TFT screen

By Ted Kritsonis

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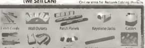

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Two...two...two cams in one

Many digital video cameras also feature a snapshot mode, but typically, users accustomed to shooting photographs at three or four megapixel resolution are unsatisfied with the photos Samsung's first version of the DuoCam tried to solve the problem by putting a four megapixel camera and a regular digital video camera into the same body using separate lenses in a spinning lens assembly to keep the quality high in both modes The problem was the resulting camera was the size and weight of a brick a big, heavy brick

Now, with a redesign, the DuoCam finally fulfils its promise without weighing you down too much The first thing done to slim the new version of the DuoCam down is putting the lenses one on top of the other the 10x zoom lens for the DV component is on top, and the 3x zoom for the 4 13-megapixel still camera extends as needed from the bottom half The placement of the extending lens on the bottom gives the camera a unique look–some might even say comic or retro–but it means you won't whack the lens against the body of the camera when you change modes

Now, switching between modes is simple you spin a selector switch located beside the record button you flip it one way for still camera mode, and in the other direction for the DV cam

When you re in still camera mode, there s another dial on top selecting your shooting mode There s an auto mode–perfectly fine for most users–but those who want to manually tweak the image can go to programmed mode, aperture or shutter-priority mode or full manual

For DV shooting, you record to good ol Mini-DV cassettes, just open up the side panel opposite the LCD viewfinder, and then load them in from the bottom Again, you have a fair amount of control over the image using the menu system, and there s also a one touch button for slow shutter and a switch for night-shot

With the drop in price to $1,199, the DuoCam is now about the same price as a DV cam and a 4 13 megapixel cam, purchased separately Though the digital camera quality is a touch less impressive than a discreet still cam, it s only a touch less The bottom line is that the DuoCam is a lovely way to get both types of camera in one handy body, without too many tradeoffs

by Sean Carruthers

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What's the Deal with DRM?

Sometimes it seems that the electronics business is constructed entirely of inscrutable acronyms. One that's causing a good deal of concern just now is DRM—Digital Rights Management. If you're in the market for any sort of audio or video gear these days, it's a term that's worth understanding.

DRM is a new euphemism for an old idea—what used to be called "copy protection" in the computer world. But DRM is more problematic in some of its newer implementations, particularly as it is being applied to digital video and audio content.

The latest forms of DRM exploit digital technology to prevent copying, but in the process end up limiting your rights as a consumer in some complex and far reaching ways. (Even the monicker "rights management" seems ominously broad.)

Some of the fundamental concerns with DRM have been elegantly summed up by organizations such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation. (A particularly funny and insightful article by SF writer Cory Doctorow, is at http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/archives/001632.php.)

Should manufacturers be able to limit consumers' rights more stringently than the law itself? It's a deep question. But a more immediate issue is how DRM is being applied. While most consumers are resigned to a certain amount of "rights management," some recent types of DRM are needlessly problematic in a technical sense.

Take copy-protected audio CDs. These prevent naïve consumers from (quite legally) transferring tracks to their own compilation discs, or from encoding tracks in their preferred format and quality level to their digital MP3 player. Yet they do nothing whatsoever to prevent piracy, since the protection is easily defeated by even moderately knowledgeable users.

Equally counter-productive are the DRM restrictions being applied by virtually all commercial music download services. (eMusic is one shining counter example.) DRM encoding limits how legitimate users can enjoy their purchases (for example, allowing them to play only on a limited number of computers), but does nothing to prevent those less scrupulous from trading the same content in unprotected form.

Apparently, it's been forgotten that DRM is quite capable of killing off otherwise promising technologies. Back in the late 1980s, the nifty DAT (Digital Audio Tape) standard was sunk largely by its SCMS (Serial Copy Management System) form of DRM. (Love those acronyms.) Instead of becoming a hot new market, like videotape, DAT faded into obscurity.

By far the strangest example of DRM confusion is the current battle by Apple to prevent Real Networks from making the downloadable tracks it sells playable on Apple's enormously popular iPod. Since both Apple and Real tunes remain DRM protected (by the FairPlay and Harmony schemes, respectively), this fight clearly serves neither consumers nor copyright holders.

Legally, it's hard to know who's in the right. But consumers can't fail to be confused and turned off by the whole squabble. If we're to accept DRM, surely the industry should at the very least get together on a single standard? If we're willing to pay to download a track that we could have simply pirated, surely it's not too much to ask that it should play on the device of our choice?

Consumers have shown that they are quite willing to have their rights "managed" in exchange for new ways of accessing their favorite content. But unless the technical implementations of DRM improve quickly, content and hardware suppliers could find some potentially lucrative new markets withering on the vine.

DRM that Works

It's surprisingly easy to find examples of how DRM can be applied without spoiling the content it's supposed to protect.

For one, there's the MacroVision system used to encode virtually all commercial video content, both VHS and DVD. You may actually be unaware that MacroVision even exists, since you only bump into it if you try to copy a movie disc or tape. (The copy will appear scrambled.)

MacroVision is easily defeated by determined users (not just "pirates"—remember, in Canada you have the legal right to copy your discs or tapes, for your own use), but that's beside the point. MacroVision helps keep "honest users honest" without limiting their hardware or content choices, or otherwise disrupting the experience.

Copy protection on PlayStation, Xbox, GameCube or even PC discs is similarly innocuous. Although determined pirates (or, again, consumers wanting to make legal backups) can get around the restrictions, they don't impede anyone's legitimate enjoyment of the product.

By Frank Lenk

It almost feels like the end of prohibition … we can now download music without feeling like we're breaking the law. But with all of the new legal online music services out there, how do we know which one to go with? HUB gets the lowdown on four popular online music providers

:// MUSIC DOWNLOADING:

LEGAL, LEGIT LEECHING

The advent of online music downloading has drawn comparisons to the dawn of VCR technology When VCRs were first introduced the movie industry feared that the ability to watch and record movies at home would drastically cut into theatre revenues, which prompted studios to attempt to limit the technology's use and availability However, the movie industry eventually discovered that it was better to embrace the new technology than to fight it Now the home movie market draws larger profits than theatres.

Similarly, the ability to freely download music online through massive sharing communities sparked panic within the music industry The result a nearly nonstop cascade of lawsuits from music publishers against both the companies that provide the technology to download music and the people who use it

However, the music industry is now promoting music downloading as long as it's done through legal online music stores Online music stores appeal to consumers by providing a guaranteed high quality digital recording and fast downloads Legal music downloads also eliminate the cost of manufacturing and shipping CDs, which makes the process appeal to the music industry as well. In fact, according to many experts, legal music downloading could actually increase music industry profits in the long run

Several legal music downloading stores have sprung up recently Each store has its own set of limitations on the music consumers download a unique library of songs and albums and varying prices for subscriptions and downloads HUB decided to take a closer look at four of the more popular stores to determine their differentiators

Puretracks (www.puretracks.com)

Puretracks is a Canadian based music store focused on providing music from Canadian record companies (Canadian songs and albums on their Web site are marked with a maple leaf) They have an extensive library of non Canadian material as well, but it's worth noting that searching for many non-Canadian artists returns results for purchasing a CD online rather than downloading tracks from the album

A pay for play service, Puretracks provides consumers with a list of limitations associated with each track that should be scrutinized before buying. For example, some tracks can be burned to CD an unlimited number of times whereas others can only be burned to CD three times.

Many online music stores offer a standard price for all tracks but the songs I saw on Puretracks varied widely in price, from $0 99 to $1 99 CDN Most songs can be previewed for 30 seconds prior to buying

iTunes Music Store (www.apple com/itunes/store/)

Hailed by many critics as the best online music store around and a model for others to follow, Apple s iTunes Music Store is not yet available in Canada Apparently, Apple Canada and the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) have yet to hammer out a licensing deal

iTunes Music Store offers some 700,000 songs from all five major labels and more than 450 independents in Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) format, a superior form of MP3 with a higher bit rate All tracks cost US$0 99 each, and after a song is purchased it can be burned up to seven times and downloaded to five computers

The iTunes Music Store synchronizes with both the iTunes music player and Apple s phenomenally successful iPod It's also remarkably accessible, providing even novice users with an intuitive interface for browsing and buying music iTunes offers several smart parental features as well, like an allowance system that can be used to regulate the amount of music kids download each month, and some explicit lyric songs are provided in two versions, one labeled "racy" the other "clean"

Napster (www.napster.com)

The peer to peer Napster network gained infamy when the music industry threw all of its legal weight against it to shut it down three years ago After a lengthy hiatus, Napster returned last summer, launching a service with the music industry s stamp of approval It still permits people to browse other users' musical selections and promotes a community atmosphere, but now users must pay for the songs they download

Napster offers a monthly subscription for $9 95 CDN that allows unlimited access to its catalogue—which, comprised of well over 700,000 tracks, is currently the largest of all online music stores Subscribers can listen to songs on demand and create as many playlists as they like, but they can't download or burn any music

Napster also offers a standard a la carte service that costs users $1 19 CDN per song Unfortunately, tracks purchased from Napster face a severe limitation. each track may only be downloaded to three computers, which means that if a user upgrades computers after using up all three downloads the user will not be able to transfer any music to the new machine

MusicMatch (www.musicmatch.com)

MusicMatch offers an all-in-one music solution that combines several key features from other services The MusicMatch online store integrates with its successful MP3 player to offer a simple and tidy listening/purchasing experience, much like Apple's iTunes service

The MusicMatch store library is pretty standard, featuring close to 700,000 songs Users can buy individual tracks or choose a subscription that allows unlimited access to the library but no downloads The streaming service starts as low as US$795 per month, and downloadable songs are priced at US$0 99 Downloaded songs are WMA files encoded at 160Kbps, providing excellent sound quality Users can play tracks on up to five PCs and playlists can be burned a maximum of seven times

MusicMatch charges US$19 95 for a complete version of its jukebox free of the annoying restrictions users of the free player face

Unfortunately, like iTunes, MusicMatch isn't yet available in Canada

So, which service should you choose?

The iTunes Music Store offers a chic, deep, user-friendly service that seamlessly integrates with Apple's iPod, the most popular MP3 player on the market MusicMatch is nearly iTunes' equal The MusicMatch service offers a variety of subscription and pay-per-track options, better than average quality audio files, and provides users with plenty of flexibility for the songs they download Unfortunately, both the iTunes Music Store and the MusicMatch service are not yet available in Canada and there is no word as to when that will change

Canadians unwilling to wait for the iTunes Music Store or the MusicMatch download service have in effect two choices Napster and Puretracks Having signed deals with all five major labels and hundreds of indies Napster offers users a massive library Unfortunately, tracks purchased from Napster have more strict restrictions than those acquired from other services Puretracks' library is smaller and prices can vary wildly, but the strong presence of Canadian artists will be appealing for music lovers who want to support our country's musicians, and the tracks available for download generally have more flexible restrictions than those from Napster

It's a tough choice, and personally, I don't want to settle for second best. I'm waiting for iTunes

By Chad Sapieha

Music sharing made legal

While music downloading services do all they can to discourage illegal music sharing, they recognize the value of consumers turning their friends on to new music—an activity precluded by secure MP3s

However, some online music services allow users to send friends links to playlists that are available for a limited time Both MusicMatch and Napster provide users with the ability to email a friend a playlist that can be heard in its entirety three times before locking and restricting songs to 30-second previews. It's not free, but at least it's legal

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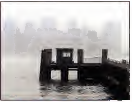

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THE RULES: You must use a digital camera to capture the subject. Work can be submitted via email (contest@ppublishing.ca). Accompanying your photo should be the make and model of the camera you used, the names of any software you used to modify the image and, if possible, the f/stop and shutter speed you used to take the photo.

Submit your photographs along with the information from the form below, by October 22nd, 2004. You can submit up to three photographs all of which must be accompanied by a submission form. Entries must be submitted via email, files should be no bigger than 500 KB and no smaller than 300 KB. One photo per email.

Contest Rules: Prizes must be claimed by December 19th 2004. Winners must provide valid identification upon claiming prize. The prizes awarded are not transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash. To enter and to be eligible to win, persons must be residents of Canada, and not employees or be domiciled with an employee of Piccolo Publishing Inc., its affiliate companies, or advertising or promotional agencies. The winners will be selected by HUB on October 25th, 2004 from among all eligible entries received on or before contest close date. Winners will be contacted by telephone or email. In the event that they cannot be contacted within the first week following the contest another entrant will be selected. All entries become the property of HUB and may be used in subsequent advertisements for the contest. All entries must be submitted by their artist and must be original work.

HUB's Photo Spree contest form. All submissions must contain this information. Send to contest@ppublishing.ca

Deadline: October 22nd, 2004
Name:...
Address:...
E-Mail: ....
Phone Number:...
Age: ....
Occupation/School: ....
Title of Entry ....
Camera Used: ....
Software Used:...

Digital Photography Tutorial 8

Accurate versus pleasing

In film-based photography, you hear people talk about the "Kodachrome look" or the "Fujifilm Velvia look." Implicit in these discussions is the idea that photographic media don't reproduce the world exactly the same, and a pleasing photograph is often the result of an interplay of science, engineering and aesthetic judgement

Digital cameras aren't limited to a single photographic look so you can tune your camera to render scenes differently according to your taste or intention This versatility can be a blessing, but sometimes can also bedevil your efforts to create a pleasing photo

One setting that has a significant effect on the overall colour of your image is the white balance setting. Back in the early days of video camcorders users had to set the white balance manually by placing a white card in the frame and taking a reading of it with the camcorder Today camcorders and digital cameras have auto white balance, as well as settings for other common natural and artificial lighting conditions

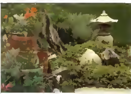
While these presets work quite well, there are situations where manually taking a white balance reading will improve your images For example, if you are trying to take a picture of something or somebody in a room that has regular incandescent, halogen and fluorescent lights as well as natural light, the results from your cameras auto white balance setting may be unsatisfactory or unpredictable That's the time to take a manual reading Even outdoors the colour temperature of a scene can vary greatly with time of day so you may improve on the camera's built in settings by taking a manual reading

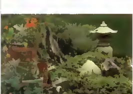
If your camera is reasonably advanced you'll find controls for adjusting contrast, sharpness and saturation Contrast adjustments set the hardness of your image by adjusting the difference between dark and light areas of the images If you are trying to photograph a sunlit scene with lots of bright and shadow areas, you might achieve greater success by turning the contrast setting down to a low or soft setting By the same token, if you are photographing a dull, somewhat monochromatic scene, setting the contrast to hard or high will add snap to it Pushing the saturation setting up a few notches is also useful for revving up the colours in a dull scene

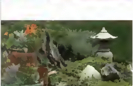
In digital images, the apparent sharpness of an image can be enhanced by an operation called sharpening Sharpening increases the contrast between areas of dark and light. If the border between light and dark happens to be the edge of an object, the increased contrast helps to better define the object, making it appear sharper

The contrast saturation and sharpness settings are similar to the controls you find in image editing software, and some argue that it's better to leave the camera settings alone and make the adjustments using the software and your computer As a general rule, I'd agree with this, mainly because you can undo an operation if you don't like the result But there are some circumstances where in camera controls can prove useful

By David Teneke







Neighbour's yard on an overcast day In the top photo white balance was set manually using a sheet of inkjet paper as the target The middle photo uses the camera's built-in cloudy setting and the bottom image was taken with white balance set to auto The auto setting produced a cooler image—note the differences in the lantern terra cotta urns and wooden stump -DT

How to Wow: Photoshop for Photographers

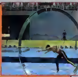
By Jack Davis and Ben Willmore
Peachpit Press, 2004
ISBN0-321-22799-9
Paperback, 368 pages, includes CD
Price: $57.99

The wow factor in the PhotoShop Wow! books is legendary but not particularly relevant for photographers How to Wow: Photoshop for Photography is in the same spirit and it's obvious from the title who the intended reader is

How to Wow is organized into specific projects interspersed with clear explanations of the Photoshop tools you'll be using I like this approach because for example, knowing about layer masks is useful even if you're not interested in the specific project—giving a bald subject a full head of hair Photoshop novices may find the book a tough slog it is rated by the publisher as intermediate advanced

Athens 2004

Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment   Developer: Eurocom



Button mashing in its truest form, *Athens 2004* is likely to wear through a few PS2 controllers as gamers crush the X and O buttons on their gamepads while trying to win gold in 25 Olympic events.

Olympic sports are hard to translate to video gaming; there are only so many ways to 'simulate' running and swimming after all, and so many Olympic events include them in some shape or form. Even events like the rings and floor gymnastics require users to mash X and O to build up power before their virtual gymnast can bust a move.

As a single player experience, there is some fun to be found. However, like older *Track & Field*-style games, only after getting other gamers in on the action does *Athens 2004* prove its full worth. Beating the computer players is all well and good and beating a personal record offers a challenge but gloating to a computer-controlled character is somewhat unsatisfactory.

There is disparity in the level of difficulty in some events, while more complicated events are generally handled well—javelin and discus, for example, where gamers must control speed, release angle, release point and a few other elements—some that should be simple fairly simple by comparison, like skeet shooting, are inexplicably difficult. While competing against friends, everyone will likely do poorly in the difficult events. However, when playing against computer characters, it can literally mean the difference between a spot high on the pedium and post-Olympiad obscurity.

For the less sedentary among us, *Athens 2004* is compatible with the PS2 Dance Mat or other dance pad peripheral, which supports 10 events, so rather then mash buttons, gamers can stomp on the mat to net about the same result.

—Andrew Moore-Crispin

★★★

Good - Fun multiplayer action
- Wide variety of Olympic events
- Some interesting camera perspectives (ex. first person)

Bad - Some events too difficult
- Single player appeal limited

Final thought: Finally, a track and field button masher for PS2 gamers

Madden NFL 2005

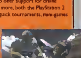
Publisher: EA Sports   Developer: EA Tiburon

The world's best-selling football video game franchise—totaling close to 37 million units sold since the series debuted 15 years ago—is back with its latest offering, *Madden NFL 2005*. Looking for pigskin perfection? This is it.

Florida-based developer EA Tiburon has added a number of impressive features to this year's pro football simulation without diluting what has made this franchise so sought after.

Arguably the most noticeable area of improvement is in the defense. Key "D" additions include something called "Hit Stick" control, a move that lets gamers push the right analog stick on the controller to deliver a big hit; if the timing is right, it will force the ball-carrying player to fumble. *Madden NFL 2005* also houses more defense playmaker controls, so gamers can modify assignments on the fly. The game's deep franchise mode is even more compelling thanks to "Storyline Central," a weekly radio talk show incorporated into the game that discusses current stories relating to your players.

As with most sports games, half the fun is duking it out against a friend but you need not be in the same room anymore. Xbox owners will be pleased to know *Madden NFL 2005* is the first game in the franchise to offer support for online matches via Xbox Live (service sold separately). What's more, both the PlayStation 2 and Xbox versions offer new online features, including quick tournaments, mini-games and enhanced community features.



Other additions to this year's game include hundreds of new player animations and a fun (and strangely addictive) "create-a-fan" option that lets gamers select from thousands of clothing and face-paint options for your devoted spectators.

Madden NFL 2005 is definitely one to own regardless of your platform of choice.

—Marc Saltzman

★★★★

Good - Tight and responsive gameplay
- Many solo and multiplayer game modes
- Online support for Xbox and PS2

Bad - Sega's ESPN 2K5 is also a darn good game and half the price

Final thought: Despite increasing competition, Madden is still the one to beat.

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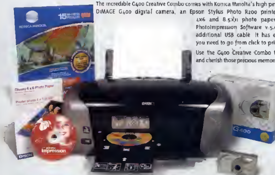

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